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GAMING JOBS WIN AS FIRM TO MOVE

By John Corser

AN online casino gaming company is creating around 100 jobs by moving to bigger premises.

Intouch Games has more than 100 workers at its site in Stourbridge but wants to expand to a new base in Halesowen.

Bosses have already taken on 50 staff in recent months as business booms.

Managing director Simon Wilson said: "We're very excited about our move to Halesowen, and it represents a massive step forward in the development of Intouch Games."

"Intouch Games are proud to be leading the way for tech companies in the West Midlands and we're constantly looking to hire diligent, hard-working, talented individuals who can help the company fulfil its true potential."

It is set to move to Fountain House in Great Cornbow in either October or November.

A floor of 15,000 sq ft has been let to Intouch, currently based in Penn House, Bradley Road.

Fountain House, which has six floors, has just been sold and the floor let to Intouch is to be refurbished. As owner and operator of mFortune and Pocketwin mobile casino, Intouch was recently named in the LSE's annual '1,000 Companies to Inspire Britain'. The company will be recruiting staff with skills including computer programming, marketing, and graphic design as well as call centre operators.

Team

It is looking for 20 'high end' programmers, 15 graphic designers and 25 call centre agents.

Intouch Games also expects to take an additional floor at Fountain House in the near future. It currently has its team spread between offices in Stourbridge, Bucharest and Budapest.

The move to Halesowen has been prompted by the rapid development of the business over the last 12 months.

There are two other existing tenants at Fountain House – Structural UK and Third Financial Software occupy just over 10,000 sq ft between them. With Intouch it will now have more than a third of its 68,000 sq ft space let.

KWB, which has been retained to market the office space in Halesowen, will now focus on the forecasted remaining 30,000 sq ft. The refurbishment of the offices, will include upgrading of windows, air-conditioning and common areas.

Malcolm Jones, of KWB, said: "The vast majority of available office space in the area is not of a condition that makes it attractive enough to potential occupiers to secure a letting. The work being carried out at Fountain House will provide Halesowen and the surrounding area with viable office space."

Nic Burton of Ruskin Properties said: "Fountain House is a great addition to our growing portfolio. It's a substantial body of offices and a significant property within the local market."

CHAMP'S ALE PACKS A PUNCH 42,000 TIMES



Sales director Ian King, left, and managing director Chris Sadler with their new ale at Sadler's Brewery, off Station Road, Lye

A STOURBRIDGE-BREWED ale sold in Aldi stores across the Midlands has flown off the shelves – with more than 42,000 bottles sold since April.

Boris Citrov is a punchy 4.7 per cent marmalade golden ale, crafted by local fifth-generation family brewers Sadler's Ales, and is named after fictional boxing champion Boris Citriano.

Shoppers have snapped up the pale golden brew, falling for its unique sweet flavour and crisp fruity finish, thanks to a distinct blend of American and English hops combined with

buckets of real orange marmalade and orange peel. Ian King, from Sadler's Brewery, said: "Our Boris Citrov marmalade ale is one of our most popular brews thanks to its zesty and refreshing flavour."

"We're absolutely thrilled to be quenching the thirst of Aldi shoppers in the Midlands; the ale has gone down a storm."

Boris lives on the Russian-Ukraine border and wears bright orange boxing gloves – a nod to the ale's citrusy flavour.

Following the knock-out success of the ale, Aldi is planning to team up with Sadler's

again in October when Worcester Sorcerer – a golden best bitter made from 100 per cent English hops sourced from local hop growing counties – will launch in time for Halloween.

Dan Hobson, UK buying director for beers and spirits at Aldi, said: "We constantly re-invigorate and refresh our ale range to give shoppers something new and exciting to enjoy."

"Personally, I'm a huge fan of Sadler's Ales and I firmly believe that they produce some of the best craft beer in the country; the roaring success of Boris Citrov comes as no surprise."

FIRE PROBE

Arson theory over camper van blaze

POLICE are probing an arson attack in which a camper van was gutted while standing in the back garden of a house. A car was also wrecked in the blaze.

Crews from Brierley Hill and Smethwick were called to the blaze in Wood Road, Lower Gornal around 3am on Sunday.

Firefighters managed to stop the flames spreading to an outbuilding in the next door garden. No houses were threatened and crews were at the scene for 90 minutes.

Deb Edmonds of West Midlands Police confirmed it was being treated as arson.

PLANNING

Accountants to take over church

AN accountancy firm has tabled a bid to take over Halesowen Baptist Church.

The church's days as a place of worship appear to be numbered following the bid by Nicklin's Accountants, which is based nearby.

Nicklin's is currently negotiating the purchase of the Stourbridge Road building, which closed two years ago, and has already secured permission to use the vestry and rear offices.

The company is now seeking the go-ahead to convert the main church hall.

INTERNET

Free wi-fi extends to more buildings

FREE wi-fi is available in more council buildings in Dudley than ever before. The council is extending the range of buildings where people can access the free wi-fi with the launch of DudleyConnect.

Currently, people visiting libraries can get free access. Now more buildings have been added to the list including The Council House, Dudley Council Plus, Himley Hall, Priory Hall, Dudley and Stourbridge town halls, Cornbow Hall, Halesowen, The Dell Stadium, Brierley Hill, Mary Stevens Park Cafe and leisure centres.

For more detail visit www.dudley.gov.uk/dudleyconnect/public-wifi

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SOMETHING TO CROW ABOUT



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Fireworks firm makes a big bang



Technician John Arnold and designer Andrew Wiggins:
Credit Benoit Leroux

A PYROTECHNICS company has made a bang after winning gold at a prestigious festival competition considered 'the Olympics of fireworks'.

Kingswinford's Jubilee Fireworks wowed the judges at the L'International des Feux - Loto Quebec event, receiving the Golden Jupiter Trophy.

Around eight or nine of the world's leading companies are invited to compete against each other at the annual event - with the displays judged by a jury of members of the public.

And the company, based at Dawley Trading Estate, went all out with a

display featuring more than 6,000 fireworks. It was designed by Andrew Wiggins, of Kingswinford, who has worked for the company for 15 years.

Bosses said it had taken around three days to get the 30-minute display ready with 5,000 electrical circuits having to be wired up in order to set off the fireworks.

The competition, also known as the Montreal Fireworks Festival, is held over the course of a month - with one or two displays taking place each week.

Firms from across the globe, including China, France, Italy, Canada and

the USA, took part. The competition is held in a specially-built stadium at La Ronde amusement park in Montreal and around 50,000 people attended.

Jubilee has previously won first prize in other international competitions in the Philippines, Monaco, and Hanover.

Managing director of Jubilee Chris Pearce said the firm was delighted to have achieved the accolade.

"It is a wonderful achievement and we are very proud. Winning this trophy establishes the company as one of the world's leading fireworks display companies."

Images put online by ex in revenge porn attack

A MAN has admitted changing his ex-girlfriend's Facebook profile picture to a graphic image taken while they were in a relationship.

Samuel Bishop even sent the 'revenge porn' to other users on the global social networking website, Dudley Magistrates Court heard.

The 29-year-old of Hamilton Drive, Wordsley, pleaded guilty to two counts of disclosing private sexual photographs with intent to cause distress. He will be sentenced on September 10.

Prosecuting, Chris Coughlan, said the 25-year-old victim had shared the photograph with Bishop while the pair were in a relationship.

Mr Coughlan said the image, uploaded to Facebook on May 22, was 'about as private as it gets' and added Bishop had committed a hideous crime.

The court heard Bishop had no previous convictions of a similar nature.

Defending, Mrs Katherine Mayne Reid, said her client had an issue with alcohol and drink was involved when he posted the image.

She added Bishop, who appeared in court wearing a white polo shirt with a checked collar, was extremely remorseful and was trying to seek help for his alcohol problems.

Bishop was granted conditional bail and told he must have no contact by any means with the victim. He will appear at Dudley Magistrates Court on September 10 for sentencing.

Mr Coughlan said there would be an application for a restraining order.

Jobs joy as nightspot to become restaurant

A NEW restaurant chain is to open its first outlet in the West Midlands creating 60 jobs at the site of a well-known former nightspot.

The Kingfisher club, in Wall Heath, which once hosted The Drifters and Jimi Hendrix, closed earlier this month following a fall in customers.

Hickory's Smokehouse, a growing restaurant chain in the north west of England and in Wales has revealed plans to take over the club.

Work is already getting under way to transform the club, off Kidderminster Road, near Kingswinford. It is hoped the venue would be open this autumn.

Jobs are being created for managers, chefs, bartenders, hosts and servers.

Hickory's Smokehouse spokesman Jennifer Grimes said workers were already on 9,500 sq ft site beginning the transformation.

She added: "We are absolutely delighted to be announcing our new home here in the West Midlands."

Novice

She added: "If you are enjoy hospitality and are looking for your next big challenge or just an enthusiastic novice who is eager to learn we want to hear from you."

The Smokehouse group already has restaurants in Chester, Wirral and North Wales.

As a cabaret venue, the Kingfisher attracted Bob Monkhouse, Frank Carson and Bernard Manning. Other acts to grace the stage through the years have included The Supremes, Gerry and Pacemakers and Joe Longthorne.

The country club, hotel and gym at the site are not affected by the sale. The venue bowed out with a 1980s-themed party. Ten staff were made redundant.

The Kingfisher Country Club itself was built in the 1930s when it was known as the Kingfisher Lido, where it housed the only Olympic sized swimming pool outside of London.

Director David Facer, who took over running the venue in May 2013, said the venue had been hit during trading last summer with numerous other clubs in opening in Stourbridge and Wolverhampton.

He was joined by Kascion Franklin-

Red carpet out for Sir Lenny



Lenny Henry poses for selfies with fans outside Showcase Cinema in Dudley for the premiere of his new show

SIR Lenny Henry received a rapturous welcome on his red carpet return to Dudley.

The comedian and actor was at the town's Showcase Cinema for a special screening of his newest drama Danny and the Human Zoo, which is being broadcast next Monday, August 31.

Sir Lenny, dressed in a black suit, white shirt, black tie and black pumps, showed off some dance moves then joked with the crowd as he walked up the red carpet.

He was joined by Kascion Franklin-

lin who plays the lead in the drama. Friends and family of Sir Lenny were in the audience for the gala showing last Thursday night.

Among those who queued outside the cinema was 55-year-old teacher Shirley Lloyd from West Bromwich, accompanied by her niece Aminah StJuste, 32.

Shirley said: "I've followed Lenny throughout his career and I've really loved what he's done over the years.

"I'm here to support a local lad.

He's a great role model."

● Home - page 6



Lenny with Kascion Franklin

Site boss lands national award

A SITE manager at a Black Country homes development has won a national award.

Dave Nichols, site manager at Taylor Wimpey's Lockside Walk development in Brierley Hill, beat off 15,000 entrants to land the National House-Building Council (NHBC) Pride in the Job Quality Award.

The award recognises his dedication to building high-quality homes for new homeowners.

Roger Northam, managing director of Taylor Wimpey Midlands, said: "I'd like to congratulate Dave for winning a Quality Award."

The Lockside Walk development off Bretts Lane offers a selection of two, three and four bedroom homes. Prices range from £149,995 to £261,995.

Speeds monitored by police near park

SPEED checks will be carried out near Buffery Park following concerns over motorists breaking limits.

Neighbourhood officers will be monitoring Oakham Road, Buffery Road and New Rowley Road, Dudley. A speed-watch group could also be set up.

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Father sent to jail for injuries to daughter

A DUDLEY father has been jailed for 44 months after his 12-week-old daughter was found to have suffered multiple fractures.

The 24-year-old, who cannot be named, admitted allowing the baby to suffer serious physical harm. The child's mother, 21, pleaded guilty to the same charge but was bailed until October 5 for a social services report.

Wolverhampton Crown Court heard the 84-day-old baby had been rushed to the emergency department at Russells Hall Hospital on May 18 2013 as she was not breathing properly.

Miss Sally Hancox, prosecuting, said the child had bruising on its face and there was dried blood near her left nostril. Further tests revealed a number of bone fractures.

In his basis of plea, the father accepted he was responsible for some of the injuries but maintained his actions had not been deliberate. But he admitted his handling of the baby had been 'rough at times.'

The mother admitted the charge on the basis she should have done more to protect her baby from her 'violent and controlling' partner.

Mr Simon Rippon, defending the mother, said she had been beaten up by the father shortly after their baby was taken to the hospital.

Mr Simon Hanns, defending the father, said: "He lacks the skills to be an effective parent."

Judge Martin Walsh was told the baby and the couple's other child were expected to be put up for adoption.

Eating disorder support group

A NEW support group is being set up for people who care for someone living with an eating disorder.

The group will offer carers in the Dudley borough the chance to meet and discuss matters surrounding conditions.

Initially, carers are invited to make contact and receive more information so that arrangements can be made for meetings, discussions, and ways to keep in contact.

The emphasis will be for carers to exchange ideas, share experiences, and give mutual support. If there is interest then there will be opportunities for specialist speakers to be invited to meetings.

Contact David on 07840662852 or email carers.ed@gmail.com

Plans lodged for 21-home scheme

TWENTY-ONE new homes could be built on land in Cradley Heath.

An outline planning application has been submitted to Sandwell Council for land at the junction of High Haden Road and Halesowen Road.



Making most use of the canals

Canals offering a different path

MILES of canal footpaths can play a major role in the West Midlands' transport plans, according to the head of the organisation that looks after the waterways in the region.

Opening them up to cyclists and walkers would help improve the transport infrastructure, said Peter Mathews, chairman of the Canal & River Trust's Partnership in the West Midlands.

The trust safeguards 350km of waterways in the West Midlands as well as caring for a large collection of listed structures and many important wild-

life sites. Mr Mathews said: "We do need to create more awareness of the canal network in the West Midlands and with £6 million from the Department for Transport we have a scheme in place to transform access to the canals for thousands of people."

"This is a huge task because parts of the canal network are over 250 years old. However, we can make them better places for leisure as well as linking with organisations and businesses to make them safer and more attractive places for all of our different users."

"We are working closely with Sustrans, the sustainable transport charity who have a base in Birmingham, to achieve our aspirations to encourage people to walk and cycle more as a starting point for reducing motor traffic."

Yvonne Gilligan, regional director of Sustrans, has been appointed to the Trust's West Midlands Partnership. She said: "More and more people in Birmingham see cycling and walking as a way to travel to and from work and we must ensure that their routes are safe and useable."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Petition signed to limit speeds

AN angry resident has launched a petition to stop motorists speeding through her village.

Anne Salisbury, aged 66, has grown frustrated at seeing cars exceed the 30mph limit in Gornal.

She said the main problem area was Louise Street, from the junction of Summit Place to Barclays Bank and is calling on Dudley Council to consider introducing traffic-calming measures.

She has been backed by more than 200 people.

The petition has now been submitted to the authority.

Two crashes at same blackspot

TWO crashes in just 12 hours occurred at the same accident blackspot in Stourbridge.

Both accidents in Enville Street, which links the town with Wollaston, took place in wet conditions on the bend from Katie Fitzgerald's pub.

The first crash resulted in the blue Land Rover narrowly missing homes on the inside of the corner at around 7.30pm last Wednesday (August 19).

And, at around 7am the following day, residents reported seeing a bus and lorry crash as they passed each other.

Pop up forum staged in park

FAMILIES visiting a Stourbridge park can quiz the leader of Dudley Council on issues affecting their communities.

The authority is hosting its first ever 'pop up' forum at the activity centre in Mary Stevens Park from 2-3pm tomorrow (Friday).

The community forums are being rolled out to more venues than ever before to give people the opportunity to get involved with the decision-making process and air their ideas.

Fizzogs create Nice work for character

A STAR of Peter Kay's Phoenix Nights will team up with Black Country comedy group The Fizzogs next month.

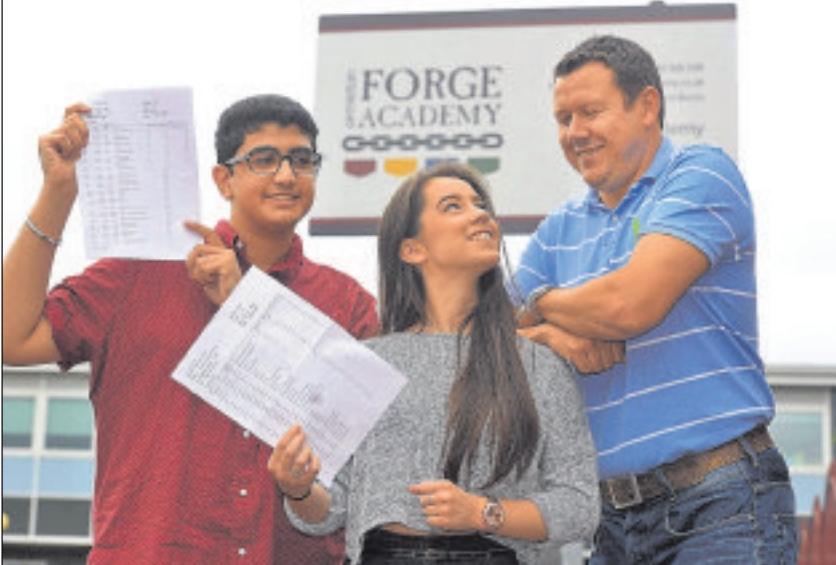
Comedy character Barbara Nice, created by Janice Connolly, will comprise the group's performance of Fifty Shades of Fizzog at Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre on September 3.

Tickets for the show, which starts at 7.30pm, are £14. Call 01902 429212.

Connolly appeared as Holy Mary in Phoenix Nights and also in Max and Paddy's Road to Nowhere.

Go wild for event

A WILD West day is being organised by Netherton Regeneration Strategic Group next month. It takes place in Northfield Park, off Northfield Road, on Saturday, September 19 from 10am to 4pm with entertainment from the Victorian Westerners group, country music, line dancing and a rodeo bull.



Gurjivan Singh (12a*, 1b), Jodie Poole (7a*, 2a, 2b) and principal Andrew Burns at Ormiston Forge Academy

landed medals in a number of international karate competitions.

GCSE pass rates were up across the Black Country and Staffordshire as more than two thirds of exams were marked with the top A*-C grades.

A total of 521,931 GCSEs were taken in the West Midlands this year - 5.4 per cent of which were awarded A* and 13 per cent an A.

There was a slight increase in the number of exams graded between A*-C, the 66.9 per cent figures marking a rise of 0.2 per cent on 2014.

But the number of GCSEs graded at either A* or A fell by 0.3 per cent this year. In Sandwell, council bosses

hailed 'some great results' at schools across the borough.

Results improved for the third year running at Ormiston Forge Academy, Cradley Heath, where students achieved a 51 per cent pass rate at A*-C, including English and maths.

Two years ago this figure was 44 per cent and last year it was 47 per cent.

Principal Andrew Burns said: "I'm delighted with the results this year, above all they show we are making consistent progress and building on solid foundations."

Gurjivan Singh was the stand-out performer with 12 A* grades and a B.

At Sandwell Academy, students

achieved 81 per cent A*-C grades, with 85 per cent gaining an A*-C grade in maths.

All students achieved at least one A*-C qualification, with 89 per cent achieving five or more.

In Wolverhampton, Moseley Park School in Bilston continued its remarkable rate of improvement, with 78 per cent of students achieving at least five A*-C grades, including English and maths. Four years ago the figure was just 40 per cent.

At Wolverhampton Girls' High School, 70 per cent of students achieved eight or more A* or A grades.

● Rivalry – page 19

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PHEW, what a relief. The 70th anniversary of VJ-Day and the end of the Second World War passed off without hundreds of veterans and civilians being blown to pieces by Islamist terrorists. As you may recall, before last weekend's events it was widely reported that shadowy home-grown bombers, inspired by Islamic State, were planning to plant a bomb on the route. As one tabloid put it: "Bomb plot: The extremists aim to strike on Saturday by exploding a deadly pressure cooker bomb during events in Central London." Thankfully, this dastardly plot was foiled. Just like the one to blow up a North Sea oil rig, fly a private plane into Canary Wharf, smear deadly ricin poison on cars and massacre shoppers in an English shopping mall. If you believe such reports, usually based on unnamed "intelligence sources," terrorist plots are foiled day after day. Now, it may be that our spooks and anti-terror cops are the finest plot-foilers in the world. But it sometimes strikes me as strange that very few burglaries, usually committed by thick-head, drug-addled teenagers, are ever foiled and they are rarely solved. Yet plots plotted by the biggest and best-funded terrorist organisations in history are foiled time after time. It is, to put it mildly, odd.

ISN'T it odd, the things that can start a row? Charlie Dimmock, the TV gardener, merely suggests some allotments are too big for the average couple to manage. She is howled down for her "random thought" by the National Allotments Society which points out that the common 300 square yard allotment, dating back to Victorian times, is specifically designed to feed a family of four for a year. This size is apparently sacred and inviolable. Why?

Many allotment holders are retired or have no family. Some find the full-size allotment

too much to cope with. Others are desperate for any scrap of land. I bet all over England thousands of allotments are already informally divided between friends and relations. All Dimmock is suggesting is that when some allotments become vacant, they should be divided into four to see what the demand is. The reaction from the allotments establishment proves again that nothing matters more to the English than their hobbies.

WELL done, the security staff at Dublin Airport who confiscated a three-year-old boy's plastic toy on the grounds that it had a trigger and looked a bit like a weapon. In truth, it didn't look anything like a weapon. But this £25 "Fart Blaster" which emits noisy bursts of electronic raspberries, looked exactly like the sort of device a three-year-old could use to make a damn nuisance of himself throughout the flight. The word "security" may have been misused on this occasion but anything that saves passengers from noisy, over-indulged children is fine by me.

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Brewery's new outlet opens on south coast

A BLACK Country brewery is opening its first pub outside the area – in Southampton.

Sadler's Ales opened a new brewery at Station Drive, Lye, earlier this year with a bar attached called Sadler's Brewhouse and Bar.

Its first Brewhouse and Barbecue is opening in a unit in the south coast city, which was occupied by Marshalls sports bar before going into administration last month.

The opening of the new bar will create eight jobs. It will offer a range of real ales created and brewed at Lye and serve American-style barbecue food.

Sadler's was originally based at Stourbridge and first opened in 1900, with its brewery supplying 12 pubs owned by the Sadler family.

Brewing stopped in 1927 but the businesses remained in the Sadler family who decided to re-start brewing in 2004.

The firm, which also has a brewery at the Windsor Castle, Lye, will offer nine cask ales at the new outlet in Southampton and a range of craft beers on draught and some of the bottled beers brewed by the firm.

Sadler's managing director Chris Sadler, the fifth generation of brewers in his family, said: "We are very excited with this unique opportunity to expand our portfolio and we see Southampton as the first step on the way to gaining a foothold in the south of England."

Sadler's has also started tours of its new brewery for real ale enthusiasts.

Services marks Battle of Britain

A PARADE and church service will commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Battle of Britain in Dudley.

The September 20 event will pay tribute to those who fought and died during the Second World War battle.

Six squadrons of the Air Training Corps will parade through the town just before 11am to St Thomas and St Luke Church, in High Street.

The service, officiated by Reverend Canon Andrew Wickens, takes place at 11.30am and will be attended by veterans, civic guests and the public.

After the service, there will be a parade past the council house in Priory Road, where the salute will be taken.

The parade will end at the cenotaph in Ednam Road, with a short service to include a moment of silence and laying of wreaths.

N

Nightclub to open at former music venue

A NEW nightclub is to open in Stourbridge on the site of a former live music venue.

Moochers, on the Stourbridge ring road, has been taken over and will relaunch on September 4 as Eleven. Owners are advertising for bar staff.

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Civic leaders brush off museum jibes

CIVIC leaders have reacted with tongue-in-cheek to an article branding the Black Country Living Museum a "lazy war memorial set in a one-horse town".

The piece on vice.com is entitled "There's a Town Near Birmingham Where Everyone Pretends To Be from the Past". It also pokes fun at the displays and costumed re-enactors.

Author Joe Bish – a staff writer for

the site, which caters to a teenage audience – wrote the article after visiting the attraction. But by the end he admits to being "sold on the museum's more sentimental aspects".

His criticism has been brushed off by council bosses who say they are proud of the Dudley museum. Town councillors have invited the author to revisit the Black Country and offered to show him some of the

region's finest sites and talk him through its heritage.

Mayor of Dudley Councillor Steve Walther said: "The Black Country Museum is something I'm really proud we've got. It shows a huge part of Black Country history and people from across the country come to visit the museum."

"Other towns are perhaps envious they haven't got a facility like it. If he

wants to come and have a chat to me about the Black Country and our history then he's more than welcome."

Councillor Pete Lowe, leader of Dudley Council, said: "We're very proud of our heritage and our history."

"We're far more than just living in the past, we're very much living in the present and living for the future as well."

Fresh interest shown in taking over theatre

By Andrew Turton

NEW groups have come forward interested in taking over Dudley Hippodrome as fresh talks have been held over its future.

Campaigners welcomed the news, saying it brings fresh hope to safeguard the 1930s Castle Hill building.

Hopes appeared dashed after talks broke down over an £8 million deal pitched by Wolverhampton-based entertainment company The Rok Group.

The deal would have seen it acquire, revamp and run the theatre.

But Friends of Dudley Hippodrome members were told of the development for three expressions of interest during a meeting held with Dudley Council leader, Councillor Pete Lowe.

The interest has come from three individuals or organisations, which have not yet been revealed by the council.

The nature of their offers for the theatre and its land has not been disclosed at this stage.

Backers

Friends group chairman Gordon Downing says members are happy that progress is being made on finding new backers.

"We have always said it is not about us, or the council, it is about the theatre," he said.

"We just want to see the Hippodrome up and running again."

"I would welcome the news that people have coming forward showing interest in the Hippodrome."

"It could be that the three parties are put in touch with each other to see if they work together."

He added that the friends group had urged the council to hold fresh talks with The Rok Group.

Councillor Lowe had told a public meeting last month that he wanted a deadline of September for interested parties to submit proposals for the under-threat site.

Mr Downing says further discussions over the theatre is planned in the near future.

Worker left dangling from tree



Emergency services work to free the man from the tree

A MAN was lucky to escape serious injury after been left dangling upside down from a tree. The 31-year-old tree surgeon fell and his leg became trapped between two branches.

He had been cutting away branches with a chainsaw near the top of a towering oak tree when one of the branches gave way.

Emergency services mounted an intricate rescue operation following the incident in Stourbridge on Saturday afternoon.

Fellow workers watched on in horror as the man jumped back flinging the chainsaw to the ground only for his leg to get caught leaving him hanging perilously 30ft from the ground.

Three fire crews, paramedics, an air ambulance and land ambulances rushed to the scene at the end of Wrekton Drive around 2.30pm.

Firefighters used a hydraulic platform to reach the man. When they did so, concerns heightened because there was no pulse in his leg which had turned blue.

The casualty was given pain relief while delicate rope pulley systems were set up to stop the branch falling any further and to hold the man in place when he was suddenly released.

He was finally freed after two an half hours and was driven by ambulance to Russells Hall Hospital in Dudley when the injury to his leg was less serious than first feared.

Resident Julie Maxwell said: "My neighbour called me and I just saw this man stuck, something had wedged him in."

Trust pays out £10k as failings highlighted

HEALTH bosses in Dudley had to pay out compensation after a series of failings highlighted in a Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman report.

The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust paid £10,000 in compensation to the family of a patient who died in 2012 after being admitted to hospital with abdominal pains.

An investigation found his death had been avoidable. It found failings in communication between staff and his family about his needs and treatment and the report said doctors failed to arrange daily blood tests to monitor his response to treatment.

The report added: "There was no indication that Mr P's condition was irreversible and if he had received appropriate medical and nursing care, it was more likely than not that he would have lived. On the balance of probabilities, his death was avoidable."

The NHS trust apologised for its failings and put together an action plan to bring in improvements.

Jackie Dietrich, for the trust, said: "We accept that we did not, at the time, take into full consideration Mr P's needs as a patient with learning disabilities."

Meanwhile the NHS trust which formerly ran Stafford Hospital paid out £1,000 in compensation after causing a patient "prolonged unnecessary discomfort and suffering" as her mother was left watching her die without an explanation of her diagnosis or treatment.

Sophie in fine voice at contest

A TALENTED teenage singer-songwriter is celebrating after making it through the first round of a national competition.

Sophie Harris, a former Birmingham Ormiston Academy pupil, who has just turned 16, impressed judges after auditioning in the Open Mic UK competition at the NEC on August 7.

She said: "There are three categories and I am in the under 16. There were about 60 people and 20 got through."

"I got through with one of my own songs called Perfect to Me."

"It was quite nerve-wracking because you go in and there are four people in the room and you sing your song and you don't really get any feedback, but it is exciting."

A month full of Golden Sunset

A 4.7 per cent beer called Golden Sunset is the latest monthly brew offered by Holdens to mark its centenary.

It will be on sale at all of the Woodsetton brewery's pubs during September.

CCTV plea after town centre attack



Do you recognise this pair?

POLICE have launched a CCTV appeal after a man was left with bruising to his face and head when he was assaulted in Dudley.

They are trying to trace the three people pictured after a 20-year-old man was attacked in Wolverhampton Street at around 9.30pm on July 4.

West Midlands Police released the video stills appeal last week.

The victim was sitting in the shopping area when two men became abusive and attacked him - kicking his head and punching him in the face.

Officers are also seeking a woman, who was with the men, as a witness to the attack.

Mayor of Dudley, Councillor Steve Walther, urged anyone with information to get in touch with police.

Councillor Walther, ward councillor for St Thomas's, said: "I utterly condemn the actions of the men involved, there's absolutely no place for these sort of actions in a peaceful town like Dudley."

Investigating officer PC Thomas Minshall said: "The man was understandably shaken. He received bruising to his face and head and has recovered from the physical injuries."

He is urging anyone with information to call him on 101. Witnesses can also contact Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.



This man is a suspect

NEWS IN BRIEF

Old care home under hammer

A FORMER 29-bed residential nursing home in Dudley is going under the hammer in Birmingham.

The Wellington Road building was called Summerfield Care Home. It has redevelopment potential and a guide price of £150,000 to £200,000.

It is being sold at a CPBigwood property auction on Thursday, September 3, in the Holte Suite at Villa Park football ground starting at 11am.

There are 104 lots, including 54 residential vacant, eight commercial vacant and seven land-come-investment opportunities.

Transport aid for schoolchildren

SCHOOLCHILDREN living in slum areas of India are now being taken to school in a people carrier paid for by members of Kinver Rotary Club.

The club raised £4,500 through a sponsored silent and murder mystery evening. The project was undertaken after club member, Arvind Sharma, alerted the club to the plight of children in the Indian town of Rohtak - a region he visits annually.

He said: "This vehicle will alleviate the need for children to walk many miles to and from school. Its impact on their education will be enormous."

How's that for a money-spinner?

STAFF and members of Dudley Council will be stumping up cash for charity during a special cricket match tomorrow (Friday).

A staff team will take on a side of councillors in the Mayor of Dudley's annual match at Stourbridge Cricket Ground. Proceeds will go towards The Georgina Unit at Russells Hall Hospital and The Hope Centre, Halesowen.

The teams will take to the field from 6pm. Admission is free and there will also be a raffle.

Best foot forward for Promise Dreams walk

FUNDRAISERS will put best foot forward to take part in walk for the Promise Dreams charity next month.

The cause, backed by Wolves legend Steve Bull and TV host Suzi Perry, stages its Walk for Dreams event on September 13 from 11am in the grounds of Himley Hall, near Dudley.

The nine-mile event is free to enter but walkers are encouraged to raise as much as they can.

Complete an online registration at www.walkfordreams.co.uk

30th boating festival

THE 30th Black Country Boating Festival is taking place at Windmill End, Netherton, next month. It runs on September 12 and 13 and is open each day from 10am to 5pm. There will be boat trips running along the canal, as well as live music. More than 100 narrowboats are expected to attend.

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Cloudy2Clear Windows – Service With A Smile!

It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their service.

Managing Director Brian Stanley feels that it's all about service. "Our product is simple. If your double glazing is misted up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 5 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people

money, although that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done.

We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole."

Cloudy2Clear service Wolverhampton and the surrounding

area and Brian is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. "The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people

I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated."

So, if your windows are steamed up, broken or damaged give Brian a call for a free quotation on 0800 61 21 118 and he'll be happy to help!



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What's the attraction with music festivals?

A MAN claims to have paid £3 to register his sat-nav as a Labour supporter in order to vote in the forthcoming leadership contest. Apparently the device is struggling to decide, sometimes favouring Corby in Northants, sometimes Kendal in the Lake District, and occasionally Burnham-on-Sea.

...

INCIDENTALLY, Jeremy Corbyn is the younger brother of renowned meteorologist Piers Corbyn, who says man-made global warming is a myth. He says the planet stopped warming some years ago, and that trend is unlikely to be reversed any time soon. Music to most motorists' ears, I would have thought. Perhaps it's just me, but it sounds like they're chosen the wrong brother again.

...

SO, that's it from V Festival for another year, with only 1,000 people needing medical treatment, and just 78 ambulances called out.

What is the attraction with these events? Whatever makes an otherwise normal person pay through the nose to watch the likes of Tom Jones from a muddy field during a thunderstorm after sitting in traffic for hours on end, washing their hair with talcum powder and sleeping in a tiny tent?

Each to their own, and there is nothing wrong with a passion for music. I just can't see what is wrong with seeing it in a concert hall or stadium. And having a wash before the performance.

...

PATRICK MacNee, George Cole, and now Stephen Lewis, three towering figures of British television are no longer with us. Of course, they will all live on. The Avengers, Minder and On The Buses all continue to pull in viewers on the nostalgia channels for many years to come, emphasising just how little quality television is actually made today.

Isn't it depressing that while the technology and special effects have come on in leaps and bounds, we no longer seem able to make a light-hearted action adventure series which doesn't require an interest in psychology, we can't make an underworld crime drama which doesn't involve gratuitous violence, and nobody is able to come up with a sitcom about everyday working-class life that simply makes us laugh?

These days everything has to have an agenda, and the budget seems to be spent on everything but the scriptwriters.

Maybe we should remember that while MacNee, Cole and Lewis are the names we remember, it was Brian Clemens, Leon Griffiths, Ronald Chesney and Ronald Wolfe who were the real forces behind our favourite programmes. The role of the producer and scriptwriter is very under-rated.



Lenny Henry with his mum and family at home in Dudley



Sir Lenny at Henry Court with Caroline Reid



The comedian cuts a cake to mark Henry Court's 10 years

No place like home as Sir Lenny returns

Sir Lenny Henry was back in his hometown of Dudley for the premiere of his new TV drama.

CLARE BUTLER met him

THERE'S no place like home for Sir Lenny.

His beaming smile showed his joy at being back in the Black Country.

Everyone knows the larger-than-life comic and television personality as a stand up, actor and the face of Comic Relief. But in Dudley, he is just Lenny.

The 56-year-old father was full of life as he arrived in his hometown for the screening of his self-penned television drama Danny and the Human Zoo.

But before hitting the red carpet for the glamorous premiere, he took a walk down memory lane.

He visited Henry Court retirement housing – named in memory of his mother Winifred – to help mark its 10th anniversary, a decade after he opened it.

His smile lit up the room as he had residents and managers howling of laughter, swapping between a comedic Jamaican and Dudley accent.

Banter

Ever the comic Lenny had the room in the palm of his hand as he treated guests to gags with his razor-sharp wit.

Putting everyone at ease he even included invited guests in the fun as he encouraged the room to join in.

Joking in the first opening lines of his speech he said: "It's very nice to be back at Henry Court and to see that they've put at the Hoover around it I bet they thought 'Ooh we've got the Mayor coming, better tidy up!'

Lenny continued to banter with mayor of Dudley, Councillor Steve Walther, even commenting on the amount of bling in the building as he sported his mayoral chains and the paper his speech was written on, saying "where's the iPad Steve?"

In fits of laughter Councillor Walther added:



Sir Lenny unveils a plaque at the centre named in honour of his late mother

I think I'm going to have to throw my speech out the window!

"I get a lot of people asking me whether I get nervous doing speeches and meeting people, but never have I been in the presence of global superstar before like Sir Lenny."

"Let me just say what a privilege it is for us to be here today and to welcome back someone who has come from very humble beginnings."

Sir Lenny was the first child Winifred Henry had after moving to Britain from Jamaica. He was raised by Winifred and her husband Winston Henry, who died when the comedian was 19. Winifred died in 1998.

Growing up in Douglas Road near Buffery Park, Sir Lenny has gone on to global stardom. But his thoughts are never too far from home.

"Whenever I go out and about I always try to represent Dudley and put a few lines in about the town on my stand-up shows," he

said. "Although it gets a bad name sometimes, it's really not a bad place. On my way to get here driving down the high street I thought, there's some great people here."

"I actually came back to Henry Court to film my show Lenny's Britain a few years ago, and this place represented Dudley in such a good light."

"I helped out in the kitchen and went round to see some of the residents and had a right laugh – one man couldn't hear me because of his hearing aid settings, so we were shouting at each other for a bit."

"But I also remember a lot of very happy people, eating Caribbean food sitting and chatting away and telling stories of yesterday."

Henry Court is one of the association's six retirement schemes. Sir Lenny opened the retirement housing scheme 10 years ago. It was named in honour of his mother, who was

a member of the congregation of The Church of God of Prophecy, which founded Nehemiah United Churches Housing Association, which manages Henry Court.

Muriel Hylton, a day resident once a week, was eager to get a snap with Sir Lenny after the celebratory cake-cutting.

She explained how she was friends with his mother in her younger years.

Sir Lenny shared a joke with Muriel before putting his arms around her and posing with a big grin for half-a-dozen photographers.

"Lenny is lovely," she smiled. "His mum would be very proud if she was here today. He really loves his community and it shows in everything he does. His mum was a lovely lady who always took time to help others."

"Seeing Lenny on TV is always something special as it shows just how far he has come."

Joyce Thompson, craft activity worker at Henry Court, said: "I have worked here since it opened and it is just a vibrant place with a real family atmosphere."

"Lenny's mom would have been so inspired and touched if she was still with us."

"Sometimes you find that when someone gets as famous as Lenny they forget their proper roots, but he never has and has always remembered to come back and visit us."

Laugh

Caroline Reid, manager of Henry Court, said: "I personally asked Lenny to come back here for our birthday celebrations and he said of course he would."

"When he came to film for his show a few years back we sat here in the office and had a right laugh."

"I grew up in Dudley too and I can just tell that Lenny will always have that close connection with the town."

Lenny said: "My mom was a very proud woman and she spent a lot of time in the community and worked incredibly hard in the local area."

"It was extremely touching for Henry Court to be named after her and I am thankful that her name has continued to be remembered in this way."

"On every occasion I return I like to see the work being done here. Not only within Henry Court, but within Dudley as whole."

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False hype and promises over HS2

I AGREE entirely agree with the comments from Natalie Bennett of The Green Party in The Dudley Chronicle, August 13.

For many months I too have been trying to alert politicians and business people alike to the fact that HS2 will only benefit London at the expense of the Midlands, but it seems that they have been brainwashed by all the hype and false promises.

The history of the railways clearly demonstrates that it was the ability to move freight quickly to and from the sea ports that created the wealth that

put Britain at the top of the developed world. Passenger transport evolved as a natural consequence of that process of wealth creation some 60 years later.

Make no mistake, the purpose of HS2 is purely to ensure the success of the recently announced expansion of airports in the south of England at the expense of Birmingham and East Midlands airports. As Natalie Bennett suggested, we should be building railways from east to west, which would greatly improve links between centres of manufacturing industry, and the ports. Another advantage would be to reduce

HGV traffic on our motorways, thus improving road safety and drastically reducing motorway maintenance costs.

If further proof were required, I quote the words of Mr Cameron, who promised that 'Birmingham will be at the hub of the HS2 network' but if you look at the proposed route, Birmingham has a stop on the main line and a single branch line apparently to NEC and the airport. I must say, Mr Cameron has a very different concept of a 'hub' to that of most other people!

M CLIFF
Wall Heath

Rankled by life in the slow lane

I COULDN'T have made this up if I'd tried . . . my wife and I had been to B&Q, Halesowen and as we made our way back home a police vehicle fell in behind us.

My progress was halted by traffic lights at Colley Gate, whereby the police vehicle exhibited blue lights and the officer got out. My misdemeanour it appears that I had been driving too slowly.

No further action was taken, but with a police vehicle stuck up your backside in a built-up area, would you break speed limits?

When you consider that she had taunted me for about three or four miles from the top of Mucklows Hill – on a route subject to speeding restrictions, accident black-spot warning signs, and with numerous speed camera alerts, you would be an idiot if you didn't drive diligently and keep within the prescribed speed limits. Her assertion of slow driving just doesn't make sense.

J B WALDRON
Stourbridge

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST

Dudley Chronicle,
Chronicle Editorial,
51-53 Queen Street
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

EMAIL

dudley.chrons@
expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Biggest villain of democratic system

IT'S good to see that Bill Etheridge MEP has championed the cause to keep the Seven Stars pub in Sedgley open for business and showed the courage to take on a big supermarket chain in the interests of local democracy.

The number one villain and public enemy to democracy is still the mysterious planning inspectorate.

Time after time local people form action groups, start petitions, lobby local councillors. Even MPs and MEPs celebrate thinking after months or years of campaigning they have won the battle to save something important to their areas, just to see all their hard work and campaigning overridden by the mystical planning inspectorate.

Who is he? Where does he come from? Why has he the power to override the local councils and the elected representatives that residents placed their faith in to save their areas?

Why bother with the expense of local and national politicians when the planning inspectorate always has the final say? What happened to the Tories' localism act and giving more power to local people to decide the future of their areas?

N D CADDICK
Coseley

G E FANTHOM
Swindon

Where are our rights like EDL?

MORE often than not when the BNP and EDL have their marches, the rate payer picks up the tab. The cost is picked up by the council and police force.

Yet some time ago our church wanted a small walk once a year on a Sunday afternoon around a few streets in the area of our chapel, with hymns outside houses that had requested them, something that had been done for many years.

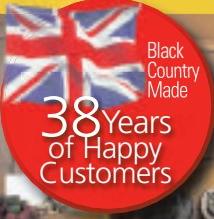
We requested permission from all authorities involved but the police said we would have to pay for an officer and the closing of roads, costing us several hundred pounds.

The traditional short walk and sing has now stopped, the cost way above what we could afford. Where are our rights for a peaceful walk free of expense, when organisations like BNP & EDL cause damage, rubbish, offence and loss of trade, yet pay nothing?

N D CADDICK
Coseley

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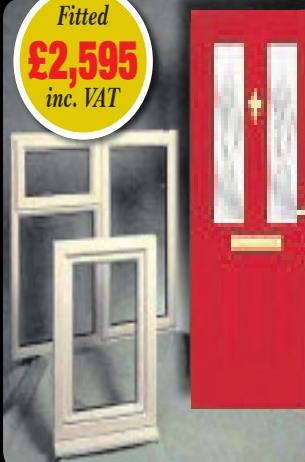
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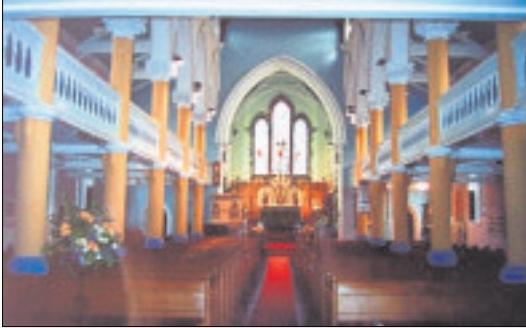
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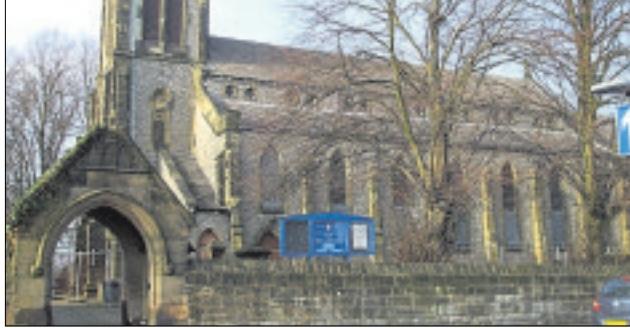
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Inside St John's Church, Kates Hill in 1992



The historic church which celebrates being 175-years-old this year



Work being done on the grounds by volunteer Martin Horwood



Work beginning on St John's in 2011, two years after the building was granted listed status

Future looks bright as church turns 175

A HISTORIC church in the heart of the Black Country has overcome a troubled recent past to mark 175 years of worship.

A dedicated group of parishioners is now working to re-establish St John's Church, in Kates Hill, Dudley, as a community focal point.

The church was once home to a thriving congregation, but after the building's condition began to deteriorate in 2002, Worcester Diocese made the decision to close the Victorian church for good.

The once-proud building fell into disrepair and its fate seemed sealed when it was earmarked for demolition.

The outlook was grim, but 13 years on, the future is finally looking brighter for the church in its anniversary year – thanks to the volunteers, determined to preserve the building.

A group working to save St John's was established in 2007 and since then

MEMORY LANE

By Clare Butler

has worked tirelessly to raise enough money to save the site.

Although the building was deemed unsafe in 2002 after structural problems were identified more recent surveys have found it's in a better condition than originally thought.

The building was granted Grade II listed status in 2009 and the following year the preservation group upped its fundraising activities by setting up a stall on Dudley Market, bringing in up to £200 a week. The operation has now moved into a former charity shop, in Highview Street, Kates Hill, where it continues to raise funds for the church's refurbishment and re-opening.

Earlier this year the group gained permission to take over the Listed building and re-open it for Christian worship, tourism and community use.

As of June this year the group's re-

serve funds were just under £20,000 with ready finances standing at around £17,000.

Members want to keep the church as unaltered as possible, but will restore some of the old features.

Preservation group treasurer Keith Jefferies said: "Once we get the keys we want to start restoration as soon as possible, I believe a lot of plaster has come off the walls and things like that. We want it back to its former glory."

The group also hopes to eventually reinstall some of the historic items such as the windows, plaques, altar and worship artefacts, which were taken out of the church when it closed.

Deb Brownlee, of St John's Church Preservation Group, said: "We had hoped the church would be up and running by now but due to some legal circumstances we've had to take our time."

"We are getting there bit by bit and the future certainly looks a lot brighter. We have ploughed away at all this for over eight years, and we aren't going to give up now."



Fundraisers including Deb Brownlee at a fundraising event to mark the church's anniversary milestone

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Memorial relocation plans are showcased



Mayor Steve Waltho and wife Jayne



Event organisers Don Davies, left, and Harry Brookes

AROUND 150 people turned out to an event showcasing plans to relocate a war memorial in Woodsetton.

Residents and ward councillors have been working to relocate the memorial from outside Mount Tabor Church in Sedgley Road.

The church is no longer used and the monument is too close to the road to allow services to take place.

It is hoped to move the memorial to Sedgley Road West, Swan Village.

Evening

And an event was held at High Arcal School in Sedgley to look at the work that the school has done and the project overall.

Visitors got the chance to enjoy entertainment, a talk by a First World War historian and a talk by some history students.

Upper Gornal and Woodsetton ward Councillor Keiran Casey, said: "The event was to get residents to come along to look at the plans of what we have been doing and letting

them know what we are trying to do and have a nice evening with some singers and raise some money.

"We've raised around £35,000 which will cover the cost of the relocation.

"I am confident in saying we are in the last stages of it and it should be moved in the next few weeks," he added.

There are 30 names on the memo-

rial which was built by public subscription. It is in memory of those killed and in honour of the men who went from Woodsetton to fight in the Great War 1914-18.

The names include six men from Woodsetton, three from Parkes Hall and 21 from Swan Village.

Under the current plan there would also be room for services to be held there on Remembrance Day.

Colourful show from youngsters



James Shaw takes the lead role in the production of Joseph and his Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat

YOUNG actors have spent their summer holidays mastering one of the all-time classics of musical theatre.

Students taking part in Lollipop Theatre Arts summer school programme, held at St Dominic's School in Brewood, have been busy rehearsing Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat before giving it their own twist when they performed at Tornhill Mill Theatre in Sedgley.

More than 25 youngsters have been taking part in the fortnight-long programme, run by Lucy-Ellen Barker. She started the theatre group in 2008 when she was just 19 and is due to take a place at the prestigious Royal

Central School of Speech and Drama to study an MA in Music Theatre next month.

Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat is based on the 'coat of many colours' story of Joseph from the Bible's Book of Genesis.

Popular

Its family-friendly storyline and catchy music have made Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat hugely popular in since it was first performed in the West End in 1973. Songs including Any Dream Will Do and Close Every Door have long been fan favourites, with Any Dream Will

Do taking out the top spot in the UK singles charts for two weeks in 1991.

The cast album from the 1991 show London Palladium show, with Jason Donovan in the lead, was also top of the UK charts for two weeks.

The show has little spoken dialogue and it is completely sung-through.

But it has been widely adapted with more than 20,000 schools and amateur theatre groups putting on productions of it.

Lollipop Theatre's version featured 10-year-old James Shaw in the title role as Joseph. For more information about the theatre school visit www.thelollipoptheatreschool.co.uk

New arrivals carry on lynx to letter D



Dante and Dakota taken by Karen Edwards

DUDLEY Zoo has discovered its new Carpathian lynx twins are boys – and has named them Dante and Dakota.

The cuddly duo were named by big cat keepers, in line with the tradition of all the family's names beginning with the letter D.

The pair were born to parents Daisy and Dave on May 20 and have one-year-old siblings called Dick, Dom and Daphne. Neil Flockhart, senior keeper at the zoo, said the playful boys were having lots of fun together and entertaining visitors with their antics.

He said: "The young twins see their parents and their brothers and sister playing on the glass pyramid in their enclosure and have started copying them. They absolutely love climbing over the glass which is a real treat for visitors in the viewing area."

Dante and Dakota were weighed and given their first inoculations by zoo vet Peter Stewart and curator Richard Brown.

The Carpathian lynx is thought to be a sub-species of the Eurasian lynx. These cats range from the Carpathian Mountains and in the Czech Republic, Hungary, Slovenia, Macedonia and Greece. They inhabit forested and mountainous areas far from human disturbance.

Victim run over in bid to prevent car-jacking

A YOUNG woman was mown down by her own Ford Mondeo as she tried to stop two men in a violent car-jacking, a judge heard.

The victim, in her 20s, was dragged out of the car by two men who had lured her to a late night meeting over a debt, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard.

She injured a leg and ankle after falling under the wheels while trying in vain to stop the pair driving away.

She arrived at the rendezvous near Crestwood School in Bromlyn Lane, Kingswinford shortly after midnight on April 27 and gave the two men £150 before being ordered to drive them to several nearby locations.

She was finally told to stop in Oak Lane, said Mr Kevin Jones, prosecuting.

Warned

The woman was grabbed round the throat by Richard Halford, 20, who was in the back seat, and warned her: "You think you can mess my mate about. I have got a knife and will stab you."

The other person went through her pockets until he found the Mondeo's ignition key and the victim was man-handled out of the car.

When the vehicle started to reverse she made a desperate lunge for the handbrake, but fell and was run over, escaping with cuts and bruises. The men took turns to drive but were forced to abandon the Mondeo after crashing into parked vehicles in Dibdale Road, Dudley.

The other culprit is now on the run after skipping bail, the court was told.

Mr Simon Hanns, defending, said: "He did not know the injured party although the other man – whose idea this was – did."

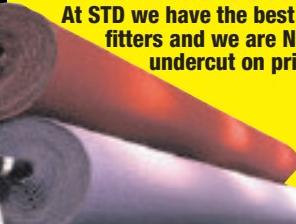
Halford, of Rowan Rise, Kingswinford, admitted driving but was not at the wheel when it either ran over the woman or crashed.

He pleaded guilty to robbery, drink driving and having no insurance. He was given four years 10 months detention in a Young Offenders Institution and given a 12-month drive ban.

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Dumped trolley numbers rack up



Councillor Bryan Cotterill with one of the dumped trolleys at Saltwells Local Nature Reserve, Dudley

A COUNCILLOR has called for action over the number of supermarket trolleys dumped around a nature reserve in Dudley.

Up to 15 trolleys have been scattered across Saltwells Nature Reserve at Netherton over the last couple of weeks.

Quarry Bank and Dudley Wood Councillor Brian Cotterill said something had to be done to eradicate the issue.

"This is an enormous problem," he said. "They should be taking this far more seriously as they are all over the nature reserve and have previously

been dumped in the nearby embankments and canals. We have got to do something about this."

In 2013, more than 20 trolleys were found scattered in about two weeks.

Warden Stephen Rowland said: "These people just throw them in rivers and they are meshed, getting clogged up with leaves, creating a dam which could cause flooding in parts of Brierley Hill.

"Wildlife gets trapped and we have to get into flooded culverts to get trolleys out, which could put us all in danger." Trolleys have an estimated scrap value of around £3, where supermar-

kets are believed to pay around £100 for one trolley alone.

Neil Woodall, from Mason Metals Ltd in Brierley Hill, says responsible scrap dealers would only accept trolleys if sellers can prove they are not stolen.

A Sainsburys spokesman said: "We have pound coin slots fitted on our trolleys as an incentive for people to return them. We keep an eye out for trolleys left outside our premises and welcome customers letting us know about abandoned trolleys."

Asda Merry Hill said it was not aware of any trolleys going missing.

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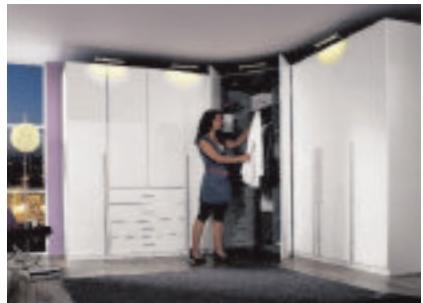
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Counterfeit trader must pay back £69,000 gains

A BLACK Country trader who pocketed nearly £70,000 by selling counterfeit DVDs over the internet has been ordered to pay back all the money.

Simon Newby, who was director at Sintew Enterprises Ltd, benefited to the tune of £69,521, Wolverhampton Crown Court was told.

The 33-year-old, from Bickon Drive, Quarry Bank, has been ordered to pay back the full amount within three months or face a two-year prison sentence.

Recorder Nigel Baker QC made the confiscation order during a proceedings of crime hearing.

Newby pleaded guilty to 28 offences under the Trademarks Act and was jailed for 16-months in June 2014.

Raids had been carried out by Dudley Trading Standards at his business premises in Dudley Road, Brierley Hill, and at home. Burning towers, computers, printers and 1,800 counterfeit DVDs were seized.

Legitimate

At the time, the court was told Newby had originally set up a legitimate business selling car cleaning chemicals. But the profits from selling the DVDs had become so great they overtook the legitimate business.

Newby used false names when setting up websites and accounts, which he claimed was

done to stop junk mail. The DVDs were sold between October 2008 and April 2010.

Newby admitted seven counts of applying a sign identical to a registered trademark and a further seven counts of selling items with a sign which could be mistaken for a registered trademark. The remaining 14 counts were possession of goods with a sign identical to a registered trademark.

Mr Mark Jackson, prosecuting on behalf of Dudley Council, said: "The defendant benefited from his criminal conduct to the sum of £69,521 and that is exactly the amount available to him."

Mr Simon Williams, defending, requested his client be given the full three months to pay it back.

Dangerous driver sent to jail after shunting van into porch

A PROLIFIC criminal who seriously injured a Sedgley man while driving a stolen car has been locked up for 32 months.

Jobless Arfan Mohammed, aged 43, raced across a junction in Smethwick at 50mph in a stolen Picasso on May 27. He shunted an Astra van across the pavement and into a porch, causing thousands of pounds of damage. Wolverhampton crown court heard.

The van driver, a 42-year-old tiler, spent seven days in hospital with nine broken ribs and a collapsed lung. He also damaged his wrist. He was trying to launch his own business at the time when the smash happened and has not been able to work since.

Mohammed, who had 49 previous convictions for 101 separate offences including several cases of dangerous driving, took the car after spotting the owner accidentally drop the car keys after parking in Smethwick High Street. The thief was quickly reported

and a passing police patrol spotted the vehicle in nearby Holly Lane minutes later.

Mohammed refused to stop and sped away. The Picasso travelled at 50 mph in a 30 zone while racing over speed bumps in Victoria Road, roared across a mini roundabout before hurtling across a give way junction with Basons Lane where it hit the van.

Mr Kevin Jones, prosecuting, said: "It made no attempt to stop and collided with the other vehicle that had right of way. The van went through a fence and collided with the porch of a house."

Mr Hafeez Mohammad, defending, said: "He feels very fortunate that the injuries of the man in the van were not more serious."

Mohammed, of Granville Street, Birmingham, admitted causing serious injury through dangerous driving and aggravated vehicle taking. He faces a two-year driving ban on release.

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Questions raised over suspect's cell death

THE man accused of bludgeoning a Black Country pensioner to death with a saucepan may have been segregated from other inmates before being found dead in his prison cell.

Leo Barnes was discovered hanging in his cell by prison officers at HMP Hewell in Redditch in January.

He was accused of battering 80-year-old grandmother Cynthia Beamond to death at her Halesowen home before killing Philip Silverstone in London the next day.

He had been on trial over the deaths at Wolverhampton Crown Court a week before being found dead.

A pre-inquest review into Barnes' death at Worcestershire Coroner's Court in Stourport raised questions about how he was managed at HMP Hewell prior to his death.

Coroner Geraint Williams said: "I need to know more about the management of Mr Barnes before the turn of the year, from when he was incarcerated, dealing with his time in the segregation unit.

Bearing

"There are issues there that need to be explored."

Prison bosses will be questioned at a full inquest hearing in January, which is likely to last for six days.

The prison's head of security will also be questioned.

Mr Williams asked for medical and prisoner escort records to be presented to him before the full inquest.

Barnes, 33, from Balsall Heath, Birmingham, had given evidence in court just days before he died. He had denied two counts of murder.

Before his death, the court heard how Barnes knew Mrs Beamond growing up as she lived on the same road as his grandparents. He was alleged to have killed her in her home.

The pensioner was found dead in her garage after her family grew concerned that



Leo Barnes



Victim Cynthia Beamond

they could not contact her and reported her missing. He was then said to have travelled to London and killed Mr Silverstone, who was 67 and a former next door neighbour.

Following Barnes' death, Mrs Beamond's daughter Beverley Hadley said: "We are devastated the man we believe is responsible for the brutal murder of my beloved mum is not going to face justice for this horrendous crime."

Mr Williams adjourned the hearing ahead of a full inquest to take place, starting on January 11.

Old school homes bid

MORE than 100 homes could be built on a derelict former school site. Redrow Homes Midlands wants to build 124 homes on the St Michael's High School site, Rowley Regis.

The 10-acre site has been sitting empty since the school moved to Curral Road in 2011. Ward Councillor Chris Tranter said vandals had since targeted the school's old buildings.

Temporary child services boss paid £800 per day

Cecil feline fine after ordeal



Cecil with vet Katharine Herbert, who performed the surgery

HE'S only seven weeks old but Cecil the stray kitten has already had to battle homelessness and emergency surgery.

The adorable ginger tom was rescued from the streets of Gornal by a family who found him hiding under their car in a nearby feral state.

But shortly after the kitty was given shelter by the animal charity Raven's Rescue, he became unwell.

When volunteer carers took him to the vets an X-ray showed he had swallowed plastic and foam packaging, similar to the type used to wrap meat, which he had eaten

while rummaging for food. Staff at Wombourne Veterinary Centre where the op was carried out, say Cecil had a lucky escape.

Head nurse at the Rookery Road practice Hannah Ross said: "He is doing okay after extensive surgery to remove all the plastic from his insides. An operation of this type normally costs between £600 to £1,000 at most vets."

Cecil is now recovering well after the ordeal. He was taken in by foster carers based in Pensnett, Dudley, who volunteer for Raven's Rescue a national trust.

A TEMPORARY chief officer has been brought in to run children services at Dudley Council – at a cost of £800 a day.

Merlin Joseph has been taken on as interim chief officer for children's services while the council continues its hunt for a permanent member of staff.

The appointment comes as it emerged the authority has yet to fully address failings highlighted by Ofsted.

Dudley's Ukip group leader has hit out at the high salary. But council bosses say children's services are top priority.

Dudley Council was told to make improvements within three to six months of an 'adequate' inspection by Ofsted in 2012.

Councillor Ian Cooper, who oversees children's services, admitted improvements are yet to be fully implemented. He said progress had 'not been as quick as we would expect' in tackling issues highlighted.

UKIP group leader Paul Brothwood has written to Ofsted with his concerns over the department and has also criticised Ms Joseph's pay.

"We are paying out a lot of money and there are still outstanding problems from the Ofsted report three and a half years ago," he said.

"I will expect a massive turnaround in performance to ensure we get value for money."

Ms Joseph has been employed from an agency as chief officer to head the children's services department on a temporary basis – paying £800-a-day for her services.

Deputy Dudley Council leader Councillor Judy Foster, said: "The care and development of children across the borough is one of our top priorities and therefore it is essential we take our time to find the right person for the role of chief officer for children's services.

"In the meantime, we have taken on a highly skilled interim chief officer to drive forward this work and continue with our ambition to make this authority a national leader."

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Allotment scarecrows provide plots of fun

THEY are usually badly dressed and used to scare birds away.

But allotment holders in Stourbridge created their own scarecrows to raise money for charity.

With a little artistic licence, members of Amblecote Allotments designed their own scarecrows for a competition with their final outcomes celebrated at a fun day.

More than 20 plot holders from the School Drive site took part in the competition with some spending days on their designs.

With a range of straw and clothing they ranged from 3ft to 7ft tall.

The winner was Jenny Hunt who came up with two gardeners, a male and female called Herb and Rose. Second place was of one boy and his dog.

A festival was held at the allotments which has more than 100 plots.

The event included a barbecue, face painting and tombola with the aim of raising funds which could be passed on to Hall Green Retired Greyhound Trust and Wild Acre Rescue.

One of the retired greyhounds, Jim, aged six years-old is in need of a new home and featured at the festival.

Lettings secretary at Amblecote Allotments, Marie Whitehouse, said the scarecrow theme had gone down well.

"We were thinking what can we do that is associated with allotments that is a bit of fun," she said.

"They were really good, people put a lot of time in and really made an effort with their scarecrows."

She added there was a good atmosphere among those at the allotments, which have been running since the 1940s.

"It is very, very friendly, people who came from sites on Saturday said how friendly it is and community spirited."



A Princess Elsa scarecrow



One of the scarecrows on display



Marie Whitehouse with her second place scarecrow and Jim the greyhound

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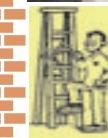
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Reeling in the years as dance lovers celebrate

A TIPTON couple with a love of dancing celebrated their diamond wedding with a special performance by local entertainer Kenny Craig.

Ron and Jean Stanford, of Stella Road, Tipton, asked the popular musician to play for them at Brook Street Community Centre, having attended many of his shows in recent years, and he was happy to oblige.

Kenny said: "They are lovely people. Even when we had the pictures done they were amazing. They were like a young couple kissing and cuddling. It was lovely to see."

The couple, both aged 81, grew up on the same estate but it was not until they were 15 that Mr Stanford

asked his future wife out. A few years later National Service forced them apart but on Mr Stanford's return to Tipton they married at St Matthew's Church in August 1955.

Mr Stanford worked at Midlands Motor Cylinder Company, in Dartmouth Road, Smethwick, and later at Cubra Casting Company, West Bromwich. His wife worked in the office at Newey Goodman, in Sedgley Road West, Tipton and then later at Preedy's newsagents.

Their daughter Sharon Drew, 59, said her parents had always been there for one another. In years gone by they had enjoyed dancing and travelling around the world.



Ron and Jean Stanford with entertainer Kenny Craig, daughter Sharon Drew and son-in-law Don Drew

Grate idea to keep out cold



Mine demonstrator Peter Stythe with the grate to provide heat for the canaries

CANARIES at the Black Country Living Museum won't be making a flap during winter after a nearby foundry stepped in to help them stay warm during the colder weather.

Staff at Thomas Dudley, which operates two foundries near the Tipton Road museum, has created a new stove grating for the site's drift mine building.

The canaries are used as part of the museum's coal mine exhibition and bosses say they would not survive without the heat now supplied.

A new grate was desperately needed by the attraction when the previous one wore out.

Museum chiefs said they were extremely grateful to the Birmingham New Road firm for carrying out the work.

To complete the project, the company

was handed a number of old parts and engineered the replacement from scratch including a new pattern. The grate has now been delivered to the attraction.

Senior curator Dr John Beckerson said: "The foundry team at Thomas Dudley have been extremely generous in recasting a new grate for our pot-bellied stove after the old became burnt out. Their support has been a huge help and we are extremely grateful."

Foundry general manager for Thomas Dudley Jim Fenlon said: "As a company we have always been happy to support the museum and currently sponsor their school's membership scheme."

"Needless to say when they asked if we could engineer a new part for their stove, we were delighted to offer a solution. We were handed a number of old parts and engineered the replacement from scratch."

Suspended term for raid gang lookout

THE look out for a hole-in-the-wall gang in a £10,000 facitory raid has been handed a suspended sentence.

Mark Worrall was recruited shortly before the thieves struck at AA domestics in Hagley Road, Halesowen, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard. The 19-year-old also helped to unwrap some of the stolen goods and carry them to a waiting van, Mr Nigel Stelling, prosecuting, said.

Worrall's fingerprints were found on packaging removed from one of the stolen items and later found inside the building.

Mr Christopher O'Gorman, defending, said: "He was offered £50 to £60 for his help. He played his part but it was in no way either central or organisational."

Worrall from Mansions Close, Colley Gate admitted burglary and was given eight months detention in a Young Offenders Institution suspended under supervision for 18 months with 180 hours unpaid work and £400 costs.

A MOTHER-of-three has raised much-needed money for a worthy cause following a recent cancer scare.

Lorraine Chew, of Etinghshall, Wolverhampton, raised £260 for Make-A-Wish Foundation United Kingdom through a host of events across Sedgley. The foundation raises money to grant wishes to children and young people fighting life-threatening conditions.

Ms Chew was prompted to fundraise after being given the all-clear by doctors after finding a lump in her breast.

Top accolade for terror victim Joel

TUNISIA terror attack victim Joel Richards has been posthumously awarded a prestigious accolade by the Birmingham County FA.

The 19-year-old, who lived in Wednesbury, has been named Referee of the Year. Officials said the accolade reflected his natural aptitude for refereeing but also the respect, professionalism, and admiration that his fellow colleagues had for him.

Joel was killed alongside his uncle and Sandwell Council worker Adrian Evans, 49, of Bilston, and grandfather Patrick Evans, 78, also of Wednesbury, at the beach resort of Sousse.

His younger brother Owen received the award on his behalf of his brother during the ceremony held at the Birmingham County FA headquarters, in Great Barr.

He collected the award from Birmingham FA chairman Mike Penn.

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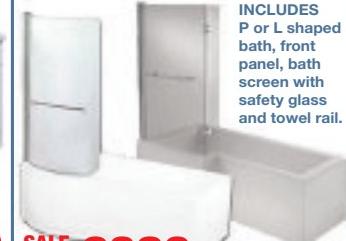
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Visit the 'Cotton State' of Mississippi, and journey to Tupelo, home of the house into which Elvis was born (entrance fees payable locally).

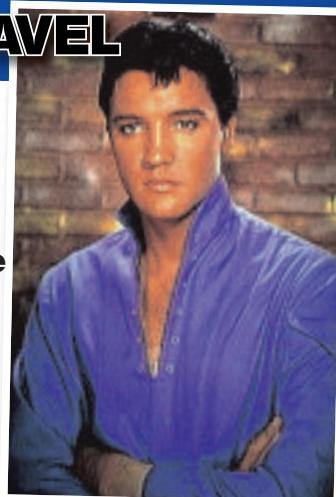
Continue on to Elvis' beloved hometown of Memphis, which will forever be linked with 'The King'. An optional excursion here takes in the Elvis Presley Boulevard to visit Graceland, the King's home, last recording studio and final resting place.

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New head-spinning beer launched



From left, Nick Pritchard from Angel Ales, and Scott Povey of Fixed Wheel Brewery with the new Cyclone tipple

TWO Black Country breweries have launched a beer to have your head spinning - called Cyclone.

A total of 108 gallons (491 litres) of Cyclone have been brewed, a Triple IPA with 15 per cent alcohol content.

The idea is for the beer to stand out and promote creators Fixed Wheel Brewery and Angel Ales, located three miles apart in Halesowen. Nick Pritchard, co-owner of

Angel Ales, said: "We brewed Cyclone last Easter and the idea is all about raising our profile."

The beer's next outing will be on Saturday when it features at two Birmingham pubs, BrewDog and The Wellington.

It then hopes to be rolled out at a new venue each month including at the Waggon & Horses in Halesowen.

Cake firm boss says sorry

TRADING standards officials will investigate the sudden closure of a wedding catering company which has left hundreds out of pocket.

More than 2,500 people have joined a Facebook group for those affected by the closure of the Halesowen-based Bake A Cake.

Company owner Lisa Holt has claimed she had had a series of personal and business problems which have affected the business. She said: "I'm sorry. If I could change it I would."

I am trying to rectify the situation and would prefer to pay people back and not force insolvency."

Bake A Cake announced on Facebook it would not be able to honour orders that have been booked in.

Miss Holt said: "I informed Dudley Trading Standards myself and I also notified the police myself.

Parents

"They may investigate me for fraud and my business dealings but I have no lavish life and my parents have even been ploughing-in money. This can be verified as well."

She said she would provide an update about refunds later in the week, but their Facebook page would be closed down 'to reduce the amount of harassment we are experiencing'.

Dudley Council's trading standards team has been contacted. No-one was available for comment but the issue is being investigated.

More than a dozen firms have come forward offering support and discounts for those affected by the sudden closure.

To get in touch with Trading Standards over the matter call 03454 040506.

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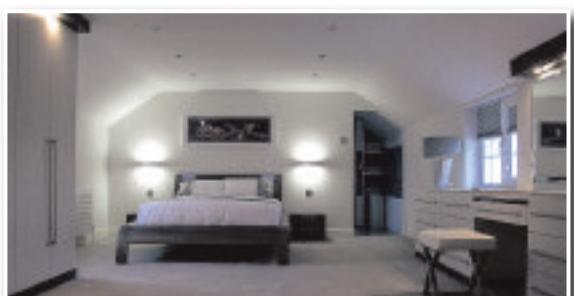
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Sibling rivalry leads to exam success at treble

PARENTS are over the moon if one of their children produces a raft of A* results in their GCSE exams. So for Kate Westwood the joy was triple-fold.

Her 16-year-old triplets, Joshua, Robert and Olivia landed an astonishing 29 A* grades between them in this year's exams, with six A grades thrown in for good measure.

"It still hasn't sunk in really," said Kate, from Milking Bank, Dudley. "It's been a bit nerve-wracking over the last few weeks, worrying that maybe one of them wouldn't do so well."

"Thankfully they've all got fantastic results," she added.

Wolverhampton Girls' High pupil Olivia scored a full house of 12 A* grades. She now plans to stay on at the school's sixth form.

Keen Manchester United supporters Joshua and Robert both attended Ellowen Hall Sports College in Dudley.

Joshua achieved nine A* grades and two As, while his brother got eight A* grades and four As.

They both plan to study A-levels at King Edward VI College, Stourbridge.

Kate, a teaching assistant at Milking Bank Primary, said a healthy competition had built up between the siblings in recent weeks. "They have all worked exceptionally hard over the last two years. They're both in the classroom and at home," she said.

"The competition really bubbled over while they were waiting for their results."

Olivia worked especially hard, but they were all dedicated to getting the best possible grades."

Robert had already achieved a B grade at maths A-level, having taken the exam two years ago, while Joshua passed his AS level maths a year early.

Kate added that her children's high level of self-motivation was the secret formula to their success.

"I think that with triplets it's easier because if one of them does something the others follow suit," she said. "They're very close like that. We gave them a bit of encouragement but they were all very self-motivated to achieve."

Managing protests costs police £400,000

POLICE have spent more than £400,000 on managing far-right marches in Dudley, with almost £60,000 spent on the latest protest.

Around 200 protesters from All Football Fans/Firms Against Islamisation (AFFAI) were ushered by officers as they marched through the town centre on June 13 – the third protest this year over plans for a new mosque.

The cost to West Midlands Police stands at £59,900 with a possibility of further costs yet to be added to the bill.

It has also been revealed a march by Britain First in Dudley in May cost the force £33,800 with the majority of money spent on paying officers' overtime.

Other costs included paying for supplies and vehicles.

In February a march by the EDL cost £321,000 to police – bringing the total bill for all three to £414,700.

Richard Costello, spokesman for West Midlands police and crime commissioner, David Jamieson, said managing the protesters pulled resources from neighbourhood policing.

Efforts

"As well as the monetary cost of these protests there is a huge cost to local policing," he said.

"The protests in Dudley mean that police have to focus their efforts there instead of on local policing in the West Midlands and the rest of Dudley."

"Ordinary people in Dudley are clearly weary of these constant protests and are fed-up with the effect they are having on their local policing."

"We would much rather that this money was spent on other things, but we

Micro-bar approved

A FORMER furniture store will be converted into a micro-bar after Dudley Council paved the way for the move. Planning permission has been granted to transform the unit in Victoria Passage, Stourbridge, which previously housed specialist store Stourbridge Pine Plus.



From left, Joshua, Olivia and Rob Westwood celebrate achieving top marks in the GCSEs

Wedding reception wish cones true for happy couple

THERE are not many people who would choose to hold their wedding reception where they work – but then the Wordsley Glass Cone is not ordinary place for Sarah and Russell Cordinley.

The couple were desperate to celebrate their marriage at the historic venue as it was where they first met five years ago. And Dudley Council granted them their wish, allowing them to hold what is thought to be the first wedding reception at the site.

Glass artist Sarah, aged 45, runs a studio at the site where she makes and sells beads. And when Russell showed up with his daughter, the couple, from Finchfield in Wolverhampton, immediately hit it off and never looked back.

Sarah said: "He brought his daughter pottery painting and he came into me looking for a light pull for the bathroom. He was chatting me up and we started dating."

The pair, who have four children between them from previous marriages, tied the knot at Dudley Registry Office in Priory Hall on Friday before the party of 200 moved on to the glass cone where the celebrations continued long into the night.

Sarah said: "It's strange having your wedding where you work but it is such a nice venue. We were at the folk festival last year and I said 'wouldn't it be fantastic if this is where we had our wedding'?"

"This is a really special place for us."

Russell, 48, who works as an engineer for Network Rail, said: "It's amazing to have met Sarah here, got married and be able to celebrate it here."

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Frank Bruno shares his thoughts on the Great Bridge-based charity Marbles



Former power lifting champion Mak Singh from Wolverhampton is snapped with Frank Bruno



Claire Bourne and one-year-old Denley Bourne from Great Bridge meet the boxing legend



'Allo 'Allo! actress Vicki Michelle speaking at the open day



Frank Bruno and Vicki Michelle with Marbles founder Kevin Robbins from West Bromwich

Charity 'a knock-out'

BOXING legend Frank Bruno heaped praise on a Sandwell charity after joining hundreds of workers, volunteers and local residents at an open day at its well-being centre.

"Marbles should be an international organisation, no question. Look at the thousands of people that have opened up about mental illness because of this charity alone," he said.

The Great Bridge-based charity held the event last week when the boxer was joined by 'Allo 'Allo! star Vicki Michelle at the Marbles second-hand furniture warehouse in High Street. Both

spoke in depth about how they have been directly and indirectly affected by mental illness.

The charity promotes good mental health and aims to destigmatise perceptions that surround sufferers. It was founded in 2007 by Kevin Robbins, whose passion was fuelled by his own experiences coming to terms with bipolar disorder.

It led him to develop a vision to reduce stress and poverty for people facing mental health difficulties, a vision he maintains from his position as chief executive officer.

Frank Bruno has battled with bipolar since 2003 and has had spells in hospital. He said: "I couldn't be happier to be involved in such an

incredible charity. Kevin Robbins is an unbelievably kind-hearted man who I can relate to through both our similar personal struggles."

The centre aims to be open from 10am to 10pm six days a week for people of all ages, disabilities and mental illnesses to discuss and talk through their problems with qualified counsellors. The charity aims to raise up to £300,000 so it can offer educational training courses, and support club groups for drug and alcohol addiction.

Vicki Michelle said: "The Marbles centre is absolutely fantastic for the local community and I'm proud to be involved in it." Visit www.marbleshomemakers.co.uk to make a donation.



Marbles workers and volunteers and local residents at the charity's open day

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COMMERCIAL FEATURE

THE owners of a premier group of parks in the heart of England and mid-Wales are opening their gates to welcome visitors who want to explore the idea of holiday home ownership.

The aptly-named "Bestparks" group are hosting a Showcase Weekend from August 28 to 31 at all of their six first class country parks.

This family-owned group prides itself on operating a range of parks that never compromise on the Bestparks Five-star standards.

"What sets us apart from our competitors is that we have parks within our group that can match most holiday home owner's needs," said Alwyn Jones, founder of the business and father to Wayne and Glenn who both run their own Bestparks.

"Some people want more facilities for families, whilst others want small and intimate country retreats. Within the Bestparks group we are able to deliver on all counts."

"Wayne and Sarah's park, Poston Mill is unrivalled in the area for location and park facilities, whilst Pearl Lake run by Glenn and Hannah is a luxury country park set around a breath-taking 15 acre glacier lake."

Other parks include The Smithy in mid-Wales, popular with people from the Midlands wanting a high quality halfway point for the coast; Arrow Bank a small select park in the historical village of Eardisland; Westbrook a touring park near Ludlow and Rockbridge Park at Presteigne which also



Parks can match the needs of any holiday home owner



The open weekend is an ideal chance to see the facilities on offer

has park homes for sale. This is the second open weekend of the season and is a chance for all six parks to showcase themselves and their facilities and an opportunity for visitors to view the wide range of holiday homes on display. Each park will be hosting events over the weekend and as all the parks are within an hour's drive of each other visitors have a great opportunity to also enjoy this beautiful region.

You can download free tickets for the events at www.bestparks.co.uk

fast theticket

GAZ TOP

Supergrass
star on folk
festival bill

Page 23



**Yap, Yap, Yap, it's
Alan Carr - page 23**

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Fusion Festival dominates the scene this weekend with a line-up that includes some huge names; Ed Sheeran, Rudimental, McBusted, Tinie Tempah and The Vamps. Visit www.thefusionfestival.co.uk

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T.Rextasy

Sat at 9pm
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Sun at 7pm
£10/£12
Robin 2, Bilton,
WV14 7LJ.
Call 01902 401211

Interrobang And Guests

Mon at 8pm, £6
The Crescent Theatre,
Birmingham,
B16 8AE.
Call 0121 643 5858

Myth City

Fri at 6pm - 10pm, £8
O2 Academy Birmingham,
6-18 Bristol Street,
Birmingham, B1 1DB.
Call 0121 622 8250

Louvaine

Sat - Sun at 7.30pm - 2am,
£5
Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath,
Birmingham,
B14 7ZJ.
Call 0844 870 0000

Jim Adkins

Wed at 7.30pm - 11pm,
£17.50
The Glee Club,
Birmingham,
B5 4TD.
Call 0871 472 0400

Thu at 7pm, £17.50

The Rainbow,
Birmingham, B12 0LD.
Call 0121 753 1818

Hugh Cornwell

Sun at 8pm - 11pm, £20
Artrix, Bromsgrove,
B61 1PQ.
Call 01527 577330

The Dear Hunter

Thu at 7pm, £9
The Rainbow, Digbeth,
Birmingham, B12 0LD.
Call 0121 753 1818

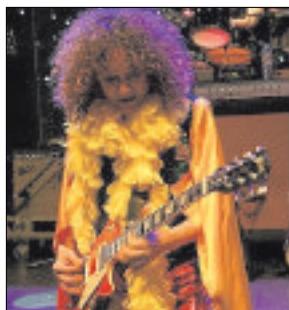
Jonny Craig

Sun at 7pm, £10
The Rainbow, Digbeth,
Birmingham, B12 0LD.
Call 0121 753 1818

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B12 9QH. Call 01384 374410

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Sun at 7.30pm - 10.30pm, £8
Kitchen Garden Cafe,
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B14 7SA.
Call 0121 443 4725

Sandpiper Folk Club Night

Wed at 7.45pm,
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Patttingham,
Wolverhampton, WV6 7BQ.
Call 01902 200207

Common Folk: Singers' Night

Thu at 8.30pm,
Pelsall Cricket & Sports Club,
Walsall Road, Walsall,
WS3 4BP. Call 0122 682018

Brewood Acoustic Club

Thu at 8pm,
Brewood Cricket Club, Four
Ashes Road, Brewood,
ST19 9HX. Call 01902 850422

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Swan With Two Necks,
Longdon, WS15 4PN.
Call 01543 491570

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Symphony Hall, B'ham

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Join Creative Stage Productions in Stafford's first ever summer panto. This heart-warming show has something for everyone combining the fairytale with all the pantom traditions. www.staffordgatehousetheatre.co.uk

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Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton, WV1 1DE. Call 01902 429 212

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Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery, B3 3DH. Call 0121 303 1966

Open Mic

Tue at 7.30pm, Free

The Drum, Aston on Carrant,

Birmingham, B6 4UU. Call 0121 333 2400

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Katie Fitzgerald's,

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DY8 3TB. Call 01384 374410

Theatre

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mac, Cannon Hill Road,

B12 9QH. Call 0121 446 3232

Charity: To Give Or Not To Give

Sat at 6.30pm, £15

mac, Cannon Hill Road,

B12 9QH. Call 0121 446 3232

Summer In Southside 2015

Sat at 9am - 6pm, Sun at 9am - 6pm, Free

Birmingham Hippodrome,

B5 4TB. Call 0121 338 5000

Love Me Tender

Fri at 7.30pm, Sat at 2.30pm,

7.30pm, £12 - £50.90

New Alexandra Theatre,

Birmingham, B5 4DS.

Call 0844 871 3011

The Bodyguard

Fri at 7.30pm, Sat at 2.30pm,

7.30pm, £18 - £49.50

Birmingham Hippodrome,

B5 4TB. Call 0844 338 5000

Beauty and the Beast

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Stafford Gatehouse Theatre,

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Sat at 7.30pm - 11pm,

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Players Bar Birmingham,

Monkee business at Moseley festival

BACK in the Sixties they were America's answer to The Beatles and now two of the grand-daddies of the manufactured boy band the Monkees will be headlining on the final day of the annual Moseley Folk Festival which runs from Friday September 4 to Sunday 6.

Peter Tork and Mickey Dolenz won't exactly be jumping on the last train but they will be bringing an air of nostalgia to the popular Birmingham event which is marking its 10th anniversary this year.

They are among another impressive line up of folk and acoustic artists who will be keeping the crowds entertained over the three days.

The line up includes former Supergrass lead singer Gaz Coombes who has taken up a solo career, Spiritualized - who are a rock band from Warwickshire - known for its constantly changing line up behind lead member Jason Pierce, Scottish Indie rock band Idlewild, award-winning sisters The Unthanks and Texan choir The Polyphonic Spree, who bring their unique brand of music based around a variety of vocal techniques.

There is a real treat for veteran folkies as well as legends Martin Carthy and Dave Swarbrick, two of the most respected musicians on the scene, join the Sunday shows.

Other musicians who have been making a big impression on the scene and will be bringing something



Mickey Dolenz and Peter Tork of The Monkees will headline on Sunday

for everyone include John Smith, Du Blonde, Anna Calvi, Stick In The Wheel, Josienne Clarke & Ben Walker, The Cadbury Sisters and Dawes.

The festival also runs many workshops based around music and traditional culture, the sessions cover

activities such as music for dancing, playing bones, harmony singing, storytelling, ukulele and guitar workshops and barn dancing.

There are a wide range of party, individual and day ticket prices so for more information visit www.moseley-folk.co.uk.

All talk from comic Carr

Most intimate show to date, pledge



CHATTY man Alan Carr has embarked on his first stand-up tour in three years - and pledges it will be his most intimate yet.

Following on from previous live shows Spexy Beast and Tooth Fairy, the award-winning comedian and TV host embarked on the 120-date tour in February and will perform in the Midlands, with three nights in Birmingham and another in Wolverhampton next month.

Born in Weymouth, Dorset, Carr spent most of his childhood living in Northampton, where his father Graham managed the town's league football team. He moved to Manchester to kick-start his comedy career in his 20s.

Established

Having landed his big break on The Friday Night Project, Carr has gone on to present Celebrity Ding Dong and Going Out With Alan Carr on Radio 2. He's branched out into film with a role in Nativity! and, after 13 years as host of Channel 4 talk show Chatty Man, Carr has established himself as one of the nation's favourite entertainers.

Carr admits he steered clear of big arenas in favour of smaller venues as he wanted to get more up close and personal with his loyal fanbase.

And he believes Yap Yap Yap is his most intimate show to date as co-habiting with his partner provides the bulk of his material.

Fans can catch Alan Carr at the Birmingham Hippodrome from September 10-12. Tickets are £30.

Call 0844 338 5000 for details. The Wolverhampton date is at the Civic Hall on September 26. Tickets are £33. Call 0870 320 7000 or e-mail boxoffice@wolvescivic.co.uk

Kielty going back to comedy roots

IRISH funnyman Patrick Kielty is going back to his stand-up roots - and will take in Birmingham during his latest tour.

The Northern Irish comic, husband of West Bromwich-born TV presenter Cat Deeley, will take to the road during his autumn for his new show, Help.

Presenting material performed at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, he will, with a little bit of guidance from the audience, attempt to rewrite the modern rule book for love, life and happiness.

Fans in the second city can catch the show at the Glee Club, Hurst Street, on Sunday, October 25.

Tickets are £16.

TOWIE star takes to the catwalk

TOWIE star turned TV presenter Mark Wright is fashioning a new career as a catwalk host.

The former I'm a Celebrity... contestant has announced his appearance at Style Birmingham Live next month.

He will host all eight catwalk shows at Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery's Gas Hall on Saturday and Sunday, September 26 and 27.

The shows will display the latest autumn/winter styles and high street collections and will feature style advice by experts.

Mark said: "I am a big fan of Birmingham."

Tickets include show entry, a drink and goody bag.

Huxley's classic gets a new run

LAND Girls actress Sophie Ward will star in a new stage adaptation of Aldous Huxley's Brave New World at the Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton.

First published in 1932, Brave New World is considered to be one of the finest dystopian novels of the 20th century. It is set 600 years into the future when human life has been almost entirely industrialised.

The latest production, written by award-winning playwright Dawn King, shows at the Lichfield Street theatre from November 3 to 7.

Ward also appeared as Elizabeth Hardy in the Young Sherlock Holmes.



Reggae Night

Friday 28th August

Psychic Night

Tuesday 8th September

EVENTS

It doesn't matter what day it is, there's always something going on at the Sammy. From karaoke to pool competitions, bingo to live music, you'll find something to suit your mood.

We also hold a popular music festival a couple of times a year and plans are underway to create a Folk/Jazz club in the cellar bar (musicians get in touch!).

Here's what a typical week entails at the Samson and Lion of Stourbridge.



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TF11 8LE

Sunday 13th September 10am - 4pm
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www.planthuntersfairs.co.uk



The interior of the Oddfellows restaurant in Compton, Wolverhampton



Cheesy nachos were little man's preferred starter



A selection of the food including bourbon and apple chicken, and Cajun salmon mains



Shabby chic – The Oddfellows is worth the trip

Place to be for great pub grub

NOTHING stands still for long these days. Even pubs, seen by many as part of the very fabric of traditional British culture, have seen a huge shift in their role in our lives.

The local boozer with its red flock stools, sticky bar mats, cheese and onion crisps and a low-hanging smog of exhaled smoke, are a thing of the past.

Many of those which have survived have moved towards becoming increasingly family-friendly places and have gone down the route of offering the peckish customer more than just a ham sandwich or a packet of scratchings. And one pub I've watched move with times is The Oddfellows at Compton.

Outside, the imposing building looks quite different with a subdued grey-green paint job giving it a more shabby-chic look, which some of my girlfriends had previously commented they weren't sure of, whilst my teenage daughter said she thought it looked great. So I'll take it from that that it's an improvement. As we walked up the steps

By Sarah Moran

and under the distinctive canopy which runs round much of the outside of the pub, a chalkboard declares that Mark and his team welcomed us. And both times, when I came in to book and then when we came to dine we were greeted within less than a minute.

And the efficient service continued as Amy, our waitress, arrived with a smile and the offer of a drink just as we had settled into our seats.

The pub has pretty much retained the same layout as before although the bar now has an added section containing the new rotisserie. The décor too has been given a facelift. Last time we were here there was a build-a-burger option which my son remembered fondly, not least because it gave him the chance to add his favourite food, bacon. This time we decided to share a classic combo, with its onion rings, breaded mushroom, garlic bread, spicy wedge barbecue sauce and soured cream, while the little man, who recently has lost his own appetite and found a horse's, claimed a starter

of his own and went for the cheese nachos. These came with salsa, guacamole soured cream and, of course, cheese. The sliced red chillis on top proved a bit too much for him so, dad with stepped in to ensure nothing went to waste.

We devoured our own combo which handily came in portions easily divisible by three and proved just the right amount to set us up for our mains.

We'd been quite torn about what to choose as the menu ranges from the classics, or Oddfellows Regulars.

The little man remained true to form and went for one of the gourmet burgers, namely the Yee-ha! Burger, a spicy combination of pulled pork and beef chilli with Monterrey Jack cheese.

There's an option to add bits and bobs including bacon and French brie but the he decided against this, which turned out to be a good decision as his portion, served with skins-on chips, coleslaw and onion rings almost proved too much. But dad again stepped up to the plate.

I decided to go for something a little lighter and had the succulent Cajun Salmon which had a nice kick of spice and

came with buttery new potatoes and salad. My husband decided to give the rotisserie a try and had the Bourbon Apple Chicken. The half chicken portion came smothered in a moreish sticky chilli barbecue sauce, served up with buttered corn and coleslaw and fries.

Our daughter also sampled what the rotisserie had to offer with the Two Way Chicken Burger with a tasty Thai sweet chilli marinade option, again served with fries, slaw and onion rings. And like the rest of us, she happily cleared her plate.

But we weren't done for yet and plumped for puddings. Again I opted for a slightly lighter selection with a zingy Sicilian lemon tart, although I must admit I was coveting the little man's melt-in-the-middle chocolate pudding, which tasted as yummy as it looked. And I also tried a corner of the husband's ginger cheesecake which was a really lovely thing.

And so was our meal. Well cooked food in friendly surroundings and a menu which offers plenty of choice. Judging on how busy it always seems to be The Oddfellows is certainly hitting the mark.

Celebrating 100 years

As Holden's celebrates its 100 years anniversary the Rose and Crown in Brierley Hill has been refurbished inside and out to a very high Standard. Since Jody has taken over the pub, the pub has a new lease of life and has even become a dog friendly establishment.

The Rose and Crown offers traditional pub food including a selection of homemade meals, served with our trade mark homemade chips. The pub also boasts its own variety of homemade scotch eggs for only £2 each. Also from the 6th September the Rose and Crown will be introducing traditional Sunday lunches with all



the trimmings starting from just £5.95 per person. The pub also caters for private parties including Birthdays, Christenings and Funerals etc (see advert for telephone number to book) The Rose and Crown also has its very own unique bitter (Ta ra a bitt....er – creamy, slightly sweet, amber ale) especially brewed by Holden's for the Rose and Crown, which accompanies Holden's full range of real ales.

So why not come down to the Rose and Crown in Brierley Hill whether to enjoy our fantastic homemade food or just to have a drink and enjoy the new surroundings, and if the weather's nice sit outside in the beer garden.

THE ROSE & CROWN

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CHOICE



Rita Ora

The X Factor
(ITV, 8pm)

New series. The talent show returns for its 12th series with Radio One DJ Nick Grimshaw and singer-songwriter Rita Ora joining Simon Cowell and Cheryl Fernandez-Versini on the judging panel. New presenting duo Caroline Flack and Olly Murs host as the search for a potential music star with an amazing voice and that extra special something begins. Tonight's edition will see the start of the auditions, as hopefuls perform in front of the judges and an arena audience of thousands in the hope of securing a place at Boot Camp.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **11.00 Saturday Kitchen Best.** **12.00 BBC News: Weather.** **12.10 Live Athletics: World Championships.** Further coverage of day eight at the Bird's Nest Stadium, including the men's 4x100m relay challenge Cup Pugby League, Hull Kingston Rovers v Leeds Rhinos (kick-off 3.15pm). **5.25 Film:** Wallace & Gromit in The Curse of the Were-Rabbit. (2005) Oscar-winning animated adventure, with the voice of Peter Sallis. **6.45 BBC News.** **6.55 Regional Programme.** **7.00 Pointless Celebrities.** New series. Alexander Armstrong presents the general knowledge quiz as famous faces from the BBC radio programme Take That and the TV panel featuring Graeme Swann and Alison Mitchell, Michael Vaughan and Jonathan Agnew, and Ebony Rainford-Brent and Henry Blofeld. The famous faces try to come up with the least likely correct answers to a series of questions posed to members of the public. Co-presenter Richard Osman has all the answers. **7.50 The National Lottery: Five Star Family Reunion.** A UK family and their long-lost overseas relatives must work together in order to win a once-in-a-lifetime reunion in a five-star location. The overseas family must answer questions to win time for their relatives in the UK studio, who will then individually answer questions against the clock. Nick Knowles hosts. Includes the all-important weekend draw. **8.45 Casualty.** Part one of two. More than one member of the hospital staff fights for their life after Zoe and Max's wedding reception, while gang violence takes a deadly turn in the department. **9.35 Mr Brown's Boys.** Agnes fears her family is planning to send her to a nursing home, when in fact it is Spartacus the dog who is set to be sent away. (R) **10.05 BBC News: Weather.** **10.25 Match of the Day.** Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League matches, including Newcastle United v Arsenal and Chelsea v Crystal Palace; National Lottery Update. **11.55 Weather for the Week Ahead.** **12.00 BBC News.**

BBC2

6.00 Film: The Westerner. (1940) **7.35 Film:** Big Jim McLain. **9.35 Dino Dan.** More Creatures Great and Small. (R) **9.30 The Women's Football Show.** (R) **10.30 Live Athletics: World Championships.** **12.10 Great British Men.** (R) **12.40 Great British Menu.** (R) **1.10 Great Menu.** (R) **1.40 Musicals: Talking Pictures.** **2.25 Film:** That's Entertainment! (1974) **4.30 Final Score.** **5.30 Gardeners' World.** (R) **6.00 Athletics: World Championships Highlights.** Gabby Logan presents action from day eight at the Bird's Nest Stadium in Beijing, including the men's 5,000m and men's and women's 4x100m relays. **7.00 Proms Extra 2015.** Katie Derham looks at the musical highs from the past week in the Royal Albert Hall, and focuses on Bach, Nielsen and Big Band Swing. **7.40 Edwardian Farm.** The team tries to harvest the oat crop but work is disrupted by rain. When they finally manage to bring in the crop, the town celebrates with a fete. Last in the series. (R) **8.40 Dad's Army.** Wilson is put in charge of the platoon when HQ discover that Mainwaring is not a commissioned officer and must join the ranks as a private. (R) **9.10 Sue Perkins' Big Night Out.** Sue hosts a special programme rounding up highlights from this year's Edinburgh festivals, with guests Phill Jupitus, Nina Conti, Katherine Ryan, Adam Hills and rock supergroup FFS. **10.10 Comedy Connections.** The story behind the Fall and Rise of Reginald Perrin, charting the adaptation of David Nobbs's darkly comic books into an unexpected sitcom success. (R) **10.40 The Fall and Rise of Reginald Perrin.** The first episode of the classic 1970s comedy, starring Leonard Rossiter as a middle-aged executive stuck in a rut and eager to learn the real meaning of life. Repeated to mark the recent death of writer David Nobbs. (R) **11.10 Jack Dee - So What?** A 2013 performance at London's Hammersmith Apollo by the deadpan comedian in which he tackles life's petty annoyances and everyday frustrations. (R) **12.15 Live Athletics: World Championships.** **3.15 This Is BBC Two.** **12.00 BBC News.**

ITV

6.00 CITV: The Aquabats! Super Show! **6.25 Pat & Stan.** **6.35 Dino Dan.** (R) **6.45 Dino Dan.** (R) **7.00 Cannibals.** (R) **7.05 Cannibals.** (R) **7.15 Sooty.** (R) **7.30 Super 4.** **7.45 Fish Hooks.** **8.00 News.** **8.30 Mystery of the 25th Murder.** She Wrote. (R) **10.20 The Jeremy Kyle Show.** (R) **12.25 ITV News: Weather.** **13.35 The Jeremy Kyle Show.** (R) **1.35 Tipping Point.** (R) **2.35 You've Been Framed!** (R) **3.05 The Chase.** (R) **4.05 Film:** Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory. (1971) Musical fantasy, with Gene Wilder. **6.00 Regional Programme:** Weather. **6.15 ITV News: Weather.** **6.30 You've Been Framed!** Harry Hill narrates a comical selection of mishaps selected by viewers. (R) **7.00 Keep It in the Family.** Six Coronation Street stars face the drop and bell ringing act from Canada performs as families from Sunderland and Bradford compete. Fun game show, hosted by Bradley Walsh. **8.00 The X Factor.** New series. The talents are tested for its 12th series with Radio One DJ Nick Grimshaw and singer-songwriter Rita Ora joining Simon Cowell and Cheryl Fernandez-Versini on the judging panel. New presenting duo Caroline Flack and Olly Murs host as the search for a potential music star with an amazing voice and that extra special something begins. **9.30 Through the Keyhole.** New series. Keith Lemon visits mystery celebrity homes and challenges this week's panel – Gino D'Acampo, Sue Cleaver and Johnny Vegas – to guess the identities of the famous owners. **10.30 ITV News: Weather.** **10.45 Film:** The Ultimatum. (2007) The amnesiac assassin regains his memory, but a CIA director sets in motion a plan to kill him. Spy thriller sequel, starring Matt Damon, Julia Stiles and David Strathairn. **12.45 Jackpot247.** **3.00 Show Me the Telly.** (R) **3.50 ITV News.**

CHANNEL 4

6.10 How I Met Your Mother. (R) **6.35 Everybody Loves Raymond.** (R) **7.00 Long Course Weekend.** **8.00 The Morning Line.** **9.00 Frasier.** (R) **9.30 Frasier.** (R) **10.00 The Big Bang Theory.** (R) **10.30 The Big Bang Theory.** (R) **11.00 The Big Bang Theory.** (R) **11.30 The Simpsons.** (R) **12.00 The Simpsons.** (R) **12.30 The Simpsons.** (R) **1.00 Rude(ish) Tube.** **1.30 Channel 4 Racing.** Live coverage from Goodwood, Beverley and Newmarket. **4.10 Come Dine with Me.** (R) **4.40 Come Dine with Me.** (R) **5.10 Come Dine with Me.** (R) **5.40 Come Dine with Me.** (R) **6.10 Come Dine with Me.** It is the final evening in Milton Keynes and the turn of competitive salesmen Simon to host. He plans for an evening of fine dining, but had not expected sabotage from his guests. (R) **6.35 Channel 4 News.** **7.00 Great Canal Journeys.** Veteran actors Timothy West and Prunella Scales head to Llangollen, Denbighshire, where they spent their honeymoon. Reminiscing over how their relationship has survived and thrived over the past 50 years, the pair take in the picturesque sights of the Vale of Llangollen and the Montgomery Canal, before travelling on a horse-drawn barge up the Horseshoe Falls. **8.00 Walking Through History.** Tony Robinson goes on a four-day trek through the Kintail region of the Highlands, examining the story of the early 1700s Jacobite uprisings along the way. (R) **9.00 Film: Side Effects.** (2013) Premier. A psychiatrist prescribes an experimental new drug to a patient suffering from depression, which seems to miraculously resolve her psychological problems. However, it also results in sleepwalking and disturbing personality changes, with consequences that could destroy the doctor's life. Thriller, starring Jude Law. **11.10 Film: Unknown.** (2011) A doctor wakes up from a coma to find another man is claiming to be him, and any evidence of his real identity has disappeared. Thriller, starring Liam Neeson. **12.00 Film: Stranger by the Lake.** (2013) **3.10 Hollyoaks.** (R) **5.25 1001 Things You Should Know.** (R) **5.50 How I Met Your Mother.** (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.00 SpongeBob SquarePants.** (2013) **10.35 Access.** **10.50 Cowboy Builders.** (R) **11.50 Film:** When Hell Broke Loose. (1958) **1.25 Film:** Patton. (1970) Second World War biopic, Starring George C. Scott. **4.45 Film:** Operation Daybreak. (1975) Fact-based Second World War drama, starring Timothy Bottoms and Martin Shaw. **7.00 5 News Weekend.** **7.05 The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door.** The neighbourhood focusses on two disputes that developed from complaints about noise-making to become far more serious quarrels, one of which took a tragic, life-changing turn. (R) **8.00 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away.** Paul Bohill and Ben Pinner are called in to evict squatters from a residential property, and it soon becomes clear that things are not quite what they seem. Brian O'Shaughnessy and Graham Alfred arrive at a restaurant in north London to collect unpaid rent, but the situation becomes heated and the debtors make accusations to the police that could ruin the High Court enforcement agents' careers. (R) **9.00 Football League Tonight.** Kelly Cates and George Riley present extended highlights of the weekend's top matches, as well as all the goals from the Championship, League One and League Two, including Derby County v Leeds United, Shrewsbury Town v Middlesbrough and Nottingham Forest v Cardiff City. Plus, a round-up of the main talking points, and interviews with a selection of players and managers. **10.30 Celebrity Big Brother.** Highlights of the famous residents, past 24 hours under the all-seeing eye of Big Brother, as they try to get used to their housemates' quirks and foibles while also coping with the day-to-day complications of life inside the house. **11.30 Tattoo Disasters UK.** People who regret their tattoos share the stories behind them, including a woman who was desperate to erase a former partner's name from her wrist. (R) **12.00 Super Casino.** **3.10 Celebrity Big Brother.** (R) **4.00 Transporter: The Series.** **4.50 Make It Big.** (R) **5.45 Angels of Jarm.** (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three **7.00 Don't Tell the Bride.** **8.00 Top Gear India Special.** **9.30 Film:** Prince of Persia: The Sands of Time. (2010) **11.20 Family Guy.** **1.40 Top Coppers.** **2.10 Fried 2.40 Russell Howard's Good News.** **3.10 Impractical Jokers.** **3.40 Sunny D.** **4.00 Close.** **BBC Four** **7.00 Giant Otters of the Amazon: Natural World.** **8.00 Sicily Unpacked.** **9.00 The Young Montalbano.** **10.40 Metallica @ Reading 2015.** **12.10 Heavy Metal Britannia.** **1.40 Classic Albums.** **3.25 Giant Otters of the Amazon: Natural World.** **3.30 Close.** **ITV2** **12.00 The X Factor:** Nick & Rita's Top 10. **1.05 Film:** Kangaroo Jack. (2003) **2.50 Film:** Homeward Bound II: Lost in San Francisco. (1996) **4.40 A Night in with Olly Murs.** **5.45 The X Factor:** Your Top Ten. **6.45 Film:** Hulk. (2003) **8.30 The X Factor.** **9.30 Film:** American Pie Presents: Band Camp. (2005) **12.25 Film:** Blue Eyes. (2013) **2.30 Riot.** **3.40 The Hot Disk.** **2.40 Teleshopping.** **ITV3** **12.05 Sherlock Holmes: The Hound of the Baskervilles.** **2.25 Film:** My Life in Ruins. (2012) **4.00 The Big Bang Theory.** **5.00 The Moonstone.** (1868) **7.00 Doc Martin.** **8.00 Lewis.** **10.00 Agatha Christie's Marple.** **12.00 Wire in the Blood.** **1.30 On the Buses.** **1.55 Movies Now.** **2.05 ITV3 Nightscreen.** **2.30 Teleshopping.** **ITV4** **11.45 Storage Wars.** **12.40 Cycling.** **1.45 British Superbike Championship Highlights.** **2.45 Live International Rugby Union.** **5.00 British Touring Car Championship Highlights.** **6.30 Storage Wars.** **7.00 Cycling.** **8.00 World Series of Darts.** **11.30 Film:** National Lampoon's Vacation. (1983) **1.35 Cycling.** **2.30 Movies Now.** **2.40 ITV4 Nightscreen.** **3.00 Teleshopping.** **E4** **11.00 Baby Daddy.** **12.00 Made in Chelsea.** **LA 1.00 Meijesa & Joey.** **2.00 The Goldbergs.** **3.00 How I Met Your Mother.** **4.00 Brooklyn Nine-Nine.** **4.30 The Big Bang Theory.** **5.00 The Big Bang Theory.** **6.00 Film:** Bar Teacher. (2011) **10.50 Rude Tube.** **11.55 Bad Robots.** **12.25 Gogglebox.** **2.30 How I Met Your Mother.** **3.15 The Cleveland Show.** **4.00 Rules of Engagement.** **4.50 Revenge Film4.** **11.00 Treasure Island.** **1.00 Spy Kids 4.** **2.00 All the Time in the World.** **2.40 The Addams Family.** (1991) **4.40 Rio.** (2011) **6.30 Pride and Prejudice.** (2005) **9.00 I, Robot.** (2004) **11.15 Maniac.** (2012) **1.00 Troll Hunter.** (2010) **3.15 Close.**

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CHOICE



Ray Winstone

The Trials of Jimmy Rose
(ITV, 9pm)

Casting Ray Winstone in a TV drama is always a good move – but recruiting his Sexy Beast co-star Amanda Redman to play his estranged wife makes the new three-parter *The Trials of Jimmy Rose* unmissable. It follows the eponymous Jimmy (Winstone), an armed robber who has just been released following a 12-year prison sentence. He's looking forward to being reunited with his family, but they have much more mixed feelings about having him home, with wife Jackie (Redman) admitting she's not sure she still loves him. However, the biggest shock comes when he discovers that his granddaughter Ellie is now a drug addict. Can Jimmy's quest to find her and get her clean provide a route back into his family?

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **7.30** Match of the Day. (R) 9.00 BBC News. **10.00** Sunday Morning Live. **11.00** Wanted Down Under Revisited. (F) 12.00 Bargain Hunt. (R) 1.00 BBC News; Weather. **1.15** Home and Away. (R) 2.15 Flug H! (R) 2.55 Escape to the Country. (R) 3.55 The Great British Bake Off. (R) 4.55 Songs of Praise – Gospel Choir of the Year. 5.35 BBC News. **5.50** Regional Programme.

6.00 Countryfile. Matt Baker visits a farm in Buckinghamshire at harvest time, where old-fashioned methods are used to bring in prehistoric varieties of wheat. Ellie Harrison reports from the harvest at a government-licensed crop of opium poppies and a scheme to preserve the harvest mouse. Adam Henson prepares for harvest time on his own farm, and John Craven is joined by Bill Bailey and Naomi Wilkinson to choose the 12 finalists for this year's photographic competition. Including Weather for the Week Ahead.

7.00 Big Blue Live. Steve Backshall tries to spot blue whales from the sky, while Liz Bonnin joins scientists tagging the animals. Plus, a baby sea otter with a vital role to play. Last in the series.

8.00 Casualty. Part two of two. The team rallies around to save Charlie following his heart attack, but with gang violence threatening to engulf the hospital, tensions are running high.

9.00 Partners in Crime. Part three of three. Tuppence comes to the rescue when Tommy is captured by the mysterious "N", and the race is on to find the key that operates the stolen bomb. Last in the series.

10.00 BBC News.

10.20 Regional Programme.

10.30 Match of the Day 2. Mark Chapman reviews the latest Premier League action, featuring Southampton v Norwich City and Swansea City v Manchester United.

11.30 Film: *In the Valley of Elah.* (2007) The father of a missing soldier suspects the army is covering up the reasons behind his son's disappearance. Drama, starring Tommy Lee Jones.

1.20 Weather for the Week Ahead. 1.25 BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 Life in a Cottage Garden with Carol Klein. (R) 6.30 Countryfile. (R) 7.30 Gardeners' World. (R) 8.00 The Beechgrove Garden. 8.30 Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **10.00** Great British Menu. (F) 10.30 Great British Menu. (R) 11.00 Great British Words – Championships. **2.30 Film:** That's Entertainment Part Two. (1976) 4.30 Nature's Weirdest Events. (R) 5.00 Jungle Atlantis. (R)

6.00 World's Busiest Railway 2015. Dan Snow, Anita Rani, Robert Llewellyn and John Sergeant go behind the scenes at Mumbai's Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus to learn what it takes to run the station. (R)

7.00 Athletics: World Championships Highlights. Gabby Logan presents action from the ninth and final day at the Bird's Nest Stadium in Beijing, as medals were handed out in the final seven disciplines.

8.00 Dragons' Den. A former banker seeks funding to renovate a London underground station, a man cycles into the studio to promote his business, and a farmer has plans to launch a range of drinks.

9.00 Special Forces – Ultimate Hell Week. New series. Andrew Flintoff presents a show in which contestants go through the training regimes of elite military forces from around the world, beginning with America's Navy SEALs.

10.00 Odyssey. A shaman forces Odelle to confront the ghosts of her recent past. Peter reaches his lowest ebb, and Ruby and Harrison leave for a romantic getaway.

10.40 Family Guy. Meg is thrilled to be recruited as a model – but not everything is as it seems with the job. Meanwhile, Brian accompanies Stewie on a road trip adventure.

11.05 Family Guy. Peter becomes an intelligent, classy person.

11.25 Family Guy. Chris dates Jerome's daughter Pam.

11.30 Film: *Black Sheep.* (2006) A farmer performs genetic experiments on his flock of sheep, giving the animals an insatiable appetite for human flesh. Comedy horror, starring Nathan Meister.

1.10 Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R) 2.05 Holby City. (R) 3.05 This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: The Aquabats! Super Show! 6.25 Pat & Stan. (R) 6.35 Dino Dan. (R) 6.45 Dino Dan. (R) 7.00 Cannimals. (R) 7.05 Cannimals. (R) 7.15 Sooty. (R) 7.30 Super 4. (R) 7.45 Fish Hooks. **8.00** News and Politics: Thrash. 8.25 ITV News. 8.30 Victoria. 9.25 Murder: She Wrote. (R) 10.20 The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) 12.25 ITV News; Weather. **12.35 ITV** Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) 12.35 The X Factor. (R) 3.05 Film: Casino Royale. (1967) Spoof James Bond adventure, starring David Niven. **5.30** The Chase. (R)

6.30 Regional Programme; Weather.

6.45 ITV News; Weather.

7.00 Animal Mums. How animals raise their young, revealing how elephants and even monkeys will work together to look after all the youngsters in a social group. The programme also features a lioness with eight boisterous cubs and sheep farmers who reveal how lambs learn to recognise their mothers' voices, reveals how gannets and seals find their way back to their offspring, and demonstrates some bad behaviour among young goats and orangutans.

8.00 The X Factor. Caroline Flack and Olly Murs present more coverage of the audition process. Another batch of applicants perform in front of judges Simon Cowell, Cheryl Fernandez-Versini, Nick Grimshaw and Rita Ora, as well as an arena audience of thousands, in the hope of winning one of the coveted places in the series' boot camp.

9.00 The Trials of Jimmy Rose. New series. Drama, starring Ray Winstone as a former armed robber trying to get his life in order and reconnect with his family after being released from prison.

10.00 ITV News; Weather.

10.20 56 Up. Documentary exploring the lives of people first filmed in 1964, when they were seven years old, revealing how their views have changed with the passage of time. Last in the series. (R)

11.25 Premiership Rugby 7s. Action from finals night at The Stoop.

12.20 Jackpot247. 3.00 Motorsport UK.

3.50 British Cycling Championship Highlights. 4.40 ITV Nightscreen. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.15 How I Met Your Mother. (R) 6.40 The Grid. **7.10** British GT. **7.35** Chloe's Closet. (R) 8.00 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 8.30 Frasier. (R) 9.00 Frasier. (R) 9.30 Sundance. **10.00** Space: Sheet of the Year. 2015. (F) 1.30 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 8.00 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 8.30 The Simpsons. (R) 9.05 Dora and Friends. (R) 9.30 SpongeBob SquarePants. **10.05** Football League Tonight. (R) 11.35 Police Interceptors. (R) 12.30 Police Interceptors. (R) 1.25 Film: Cutthroat Island. (1995)

7.00 The Great Wall of China: The Hidden Story – Secret History. With access to the first nationwide survey and state-of-the-art drones mapping the Great Wall of China, this documentary offers new evidence that reveals its extraordinary magnitude, rewrites its millennia-long history and decodes its complex signal system. (R)

8.00 Time Crashers. Tony Robinson gives celebrity time travellers Kirstie Alley, Fergie Britton, Louise Minchin, Zoe Smith, Meg Mathews, Keith Allen, Greg Rutherford, Charlie Condou, Jermaine Jenas and Chris Ramsey a taste of life in 1468. They are split into two teams and assigned to work as squires for two knights preparing to face each other in a jousting tournament. They must take on an assortment of tasks, including jousting and hunting, preparing horses and taking their master's urine to be checked for diseases in a physician's tent.

9.00 Film: *The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel.* (2012) Seven English pensioners looking for a fresh start are drawn to an advert for a hotel in the Indian city of Jaipur, and plan to spend their retirement there. They arrive to find the building dilapidated but are won over by the enthusiastic young manager, and each embarks on their own adventures in the city. Comedy drama, starring Judi Dench and Bill Nighy.

11.25 Film: *One Day.* (2011) The 20-year friendship between two university graduates is explored through the anniversaries of their first meeting. Romantic drama, starring Anne Hathaway.

1.25 Film: Tom at the Farm. (2013) 3.10 Come Dine with Me. (R) 5.30 1001 Things You Should Know. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! Peppa Pig. 6.05 Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) 6.30 The Men Show. (R) 6.40 Chloe's Closet. (R) 6.55 Make Way for Noddy. (R) 7.00 Post Patrol. 7.20 Little Pig. (R) 7.35 Wallabies and Aliens. (R) 7.45 Zack and Quack. (R) 8.00 Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) 8.15 Jelly Jamm. (R) 8.35 LazyTown. (R) 9.05 Film: Wallander. The White Lineness. (R) 1.40 Sound of Cinema: The Music That Made the Movies. 2.40 Sean Connery: In His Own Words. 3.40 Close Up.

1.25 Film: *Cutthroat Island.* (1995)

2.35 Film: *Swashbuckling adventure, starring Geena Davis.*

3.45 Film: *Paul Blart: Mall Cop.* (2009) Comedy, starring Kevin James.

5.30 Film: *Superman.* (1978) Comic-strip adventure, starring Christopher Reeve.

8.00 Police Interceptors Unleashed with Vinnie Jones. After officers foil a robbery at a jewellers, the ensuing car chase ends with a helicopter following the suspects through pitch black countryside, while a tracker on a stolen car leads to an Aladdin's cave of a warehouse. Plus, everything stops on a drugs raid when a cop turns up with a mystery package, and a leaky Lamborghini is not what it first seems. Vinnie Jones presents. (R)

8.55 5 News Weekend.

9.00 Celebrity Big Brother. A chance to catch up with the latest events inside the house as the celebrities cope with living under constant surveillance, with all the arguments and alliances, as well as the revelations in the diary room.

10.00 20 Moments that Rocked the 80s. Cherrie Lunghi presents a countdown of memorable moments, including royal weddings, political scandals, sporting triumphs and the rise to fame of iconic entertainers.

11.30 Film: *Shoot Em Up.* (2007) A mysterious gun-toting stranger delivers a baby, which he then has to protect from a horde of assassins. Action adventure, starring Clive Owen, Paul Giamatti and Monica Bellucci.

1.00 SuperCasino. Live interactive gaming. 3.10 Inside Scientology – and Escaping the Witnesses. The stories of three women who believed that they were trapped in cults. (R) 4.00 House Doctor. (R) 4.25 Make It Big. (R) 5.45 Angels of Jarm. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three

7.00 Don't Tell the Bride. **8.00** Top Gear. **9.00** Film: Deep Impact. (1998) **10.55** Russell Howard's Good News Extra. **11.25** Family Guy. **12.30** American Dad! **12.50** Family Guy. **1.10** Fried. **1.40** Top Coppers. **2.10** Secrets of China. **3.10** Russell Howard's Good News Extra. **3.35** Great Movie Mistakes. **4.00** Close Up.

BBC Four

7.00 BBC Proms Sunday Symphony. **8.00** Horizon: Playing God. **9.00** Rich Hall's You Can Go to Hell, I'm Going to Texas. **10.30** The Liberties @ Reading 2015. **12.00** Film: Wallander. The White Lineness. **1.40** Sound of Cinema: The Music That Made the Movies. **2.40** Sean Connery: In His Own Words. **3.40** Close Up.

ITV

12.25 The X Factor: Your Top Ten. **1.30** Film: Small Soldiers. (1998) **3.40** You've Been Framed. **4.15** The Fact of Life. **5.00** The Xtra Factor. **6.00** Film: Daniel Peck. (1997) **9.00** The X Factor. **10.00** Film: Rush Hour. (1998) **12.05** SafeWord. **12.50** Fake Reaction. **1.30** Totally Bonkers. **1.55** Guinness World Records. **2.15** Teleshopping. **2.45** Life's a Funeral.

ITV4

1.25 Agatha Christie's Marple. **4.40** A Touch of Frost. **6.40** Inspector Morse. **9.00** The Mighty Mississippi. **11.00** Birds of a Feather. **10.30** Northern Lights. **11.30** Film: The Human Stain. (2003) **1.35** Blue Murder. **2.50** ITV3. **3.15** Emmerdale.

E4

1.20 Hogan's Heroes. **11.55** Cycling. **12.55** Storage Wars: New York. **1.50** Storage Wars. **2.20** Film: Destry. (1939) **4.15** Film: Gunsmoke. (1953) **6.00** BRDC Formula 4 Championship Highlights. **7.00** Cycling.

8.00 Premiership Rugby. **7.5 Series 9.00** World Series of Darts: Auckland. **12.30** Hogan's Heroes. **1.05** Cycling. **2.00** Hell on Wheels. **2.40** ITV4. **3.00** Nightscreen. **3.00** Teleshopping.

Film4

12.35 Couples Come Dine with Me. **2.35** Bad(ish) Robots. **3.05** Rude(s)h. **3.45** Tube. **5.00** Film: Angus, Thongs and Perfect Snogging. (2008) **5.35** The Big Bang Theory. **10.00** Film: Gogglebox. **12.05** Young, Free & Single.

1.10 Rules of Engagement. **2.05** Melissa & Joey. **2.30** Gogglebox. **3.25** Hollyoaks.

Film4

11.00 Anastasia. (1997) **1.00** Hairspay. (2007) **3.15** Dr Seuss' The Lorax. (2012) **4.55** Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Dog Days. (2012) **6.45** The Eagle. (2011) **9.00** Rise of the Planet of the Apes. (2011) **11.05** Hellboy. (2004) **1.40** Dead of Night. (1972)

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FILM CHOICES

MONDAY

Profile for Murder, Channel 5, 3.15pm

A criminal profiler retires to live in California with her family and move on from the horrific crime that ended her career. Her idyllic life is shattered when she discovers the serial killer responsible has escaped from prison and is intent on terrorising her. Thriller, starring Nicki Aycox and Steve Bacic. (2013)

TUESDAY

Deadly Suspicion, Channel 5, 3.20pm

The estranged members of the Danville family are reunited when their patriarch, a prominent politician, is murdered. However, one of them is missing - an unstable daughter who was abandoned in a mental institution years before. When news reaches them that she escaped on the night of the killing, they realise she could be the culprit - and they could be next. Thriller, starring Marilu Henner. (2008)



Gone Baby Gone, Friday, BBC1, 11.35pm

WEDNESDAY

Obsessed, BBC1, 11.35pm

An executive with a successful job and a happy family life finds his world crumbling around him when a temporary worker is assigned to his office. The new arrival becomes fixated on him, going to desperate lengths to seduce him. Thriller, starring Idris Elba, Beyoncé Knowles and Ali Larter. (2009)

THURSDAY

Deadly Daycare, Channel 5, 3.20pm

A divorcee suspects a daycare centre of mistreating her young daughter. When the girl's increasingly awkward behaviour arouses suspicion, the mother plants a hidden camera on the premises. Thriller, with Kayla Ewell. (2014)

FRIDAY

Gone Baby Gone, BBC1, 11.35pm

A tough Boston neighbourhood becomes the centre of a media circus when a four-year-old girl goes missing. A private detective is reluctantly drawn into the case when the child's aunt hires him to find her, and while investigating around the area where she grew up, he uncovers secrets and deceit surrounding the disappearance. Drama, with Casey Affleck. (2007)

CHRONICLE



Katie and guests hit all the right notes

Apparently, just as a performance is about to begin, acclaimed British double bassist Chi-Chi Nwanoku feels as if she's taking her marks at the starting blocks on an athletics track.

Then, when the conductor's baton comes down, Nwanoku is straight out of the blocks, working towards the finishing line.

Actually, this admission from the London-based musician of Nigerian and Irish descent isn't that surprising, because from the age of eight, Chi-Chi was destined for an international career as a 100-metre sprinter.

At 16, she narrowly missed qualifying for the 1972 Munich Olympics, and two years later was on track for the next Games in Montreal.

Then disaster struck - a knee injury meant that she could never again compete at a national level. Devastated, she returned to school, and thankfully discovered that fate had something positive in store for her - music.

Nowadays, Nwanoku is established as principal bass with the Orchestra of

the Age of Enlightenment, as well as being a chamber-music performer and professor of double-bass studies at London's Trinity College of Music.

She is also the host of a weekly requests programme on BBC Radio 3 and was a jury member of BBC2's Classical Star.

Tonight, she joins Katie Derham for this week's jam-packed edition of weekly magazine show Proms Extra.

The pair will be joined by baritone Roderick Williams, who may be feeling a little sleepy after performing Bach's much-loved Magnificat, Mass in G minor and Brandenburg Concerto No. 2 alongside the BBC Singers and the Academy of Ancient Music during last night's Late Night Prom at the Royal Albert Hall.

Williams will also be looking forward to his next Proms appearance on September 11 when he is taking to the stage alongside conductor Sir Simon Rattle and the Vienna Philharmonic singing part of Elgar's intoxicating The Dream of Gerontius.

Among the other Proms highlights up for discussion tonight are Bach's solo

violin works, which were performed so memorably by violinist Alina Ibragimova at the end of July.

Katie, Chi-Chi and Roderick also look back on the National Youth Orchestra's annual visit to the Proms a fortnight ago where they focused on Mahler's bitterly beautiful Ninth Symphony.

Their concert also opened with the world premiere of Tansy Davies's Re-greening, a celebration of spring written specially as a complement to Mahler's aforementioned work.

Finally, there is footage and discussion of Daniel Barenboim's West-Eastern Divan Orchestra, who performed at the Albert Hall on Tuesday in a concert that was broadcast last night on BBC2.

Barenboim took to the piano to play a trio of challenging pieces - Beethoven's Triple Concerto, Schoenberg's Chamber Symphony and Tchaikovsky's Fourth Symphony.

And if all that wasn't enough, David Owen Norris once again gets 'Inside the Score' - delving deeper into the some of the music heard at the 121st season of the Proms.



Katie Derham features in Proms Extra 2015, Saturday, BBC2, 7pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY

Travel Guides, ITV, 9pm

The tourists stay closer to home as they sample what the Lake District has to offer. The Boyles from Dorset are amazed by the jaw-dropping scenery, but soon question if a small caravan is enough to accommodate their lively brood of kids, while a trip to Keswick pencil museum does nothing to convince Honor Chapman-Blackwell and her boyfriend Jonjo of the area's charms. Simon and Jayne Blearley face a battle persuading son Ben of the pleasures of hiking up a hill, while a trip to a local climbing centre nearly spells disaster for model Rhia. Last in the series.

Muslim Drag Queens, Channel 4, 10pm

Ian McKellen narrates this First Cut documentary providing unprecedented insight into the UK's clandestine gay Asian community, which provides a vital lifeline and haven for young men who are unable to publicly reconcile their sexuality with their cultural identity and traditions. The film focuses on the stories of three of the 100 to 150 Muslim drag queens who face the seemingly insurmountable challenge of gaining acceptance and tolerance within their own communities.

TUESDAY

New Tricks, BBC1, 9pm

Ted leads an investigation into the apparent suicide of a city trader who was embroiled in the cut-throat world of London's financial district in the 1980s. As the team delve deeper into the macho fraternity of 'The Wolfpack', they find a darker side to the debauchery, secret hand signals and all-nighters that bonded the traders together - including a strict hierarchy that might be worth killing for. Meanwhile, Steve tries to learn some tricks of the trade, amid his own financial crisis.

WEDNESDAY

Witnesses, Channel 4, 10pm

Kaz Gorbier is now in police custody, seemingly removing the immediate threat, but the mystery of who has been placing the exhumed bodies in various show-homes remains unsolved. Paul and Sandra push their abilities to the limit as they work to achieve closure, and as their investigation draws closer to its conclusion, dark secrets from Le Tréport's

past begin to resurface - with devastating consequences.

THURSDAY

Stephen Fry's Central America

ITV, 9pm

It's seven years since Stephen Fry embarked on an epic trip to each of the USA's 50 states for the BBC. Frankly, it was a bit of a rushed job, with some destinations appearing for just a few moments each. Hopefully, this tour will be a little more in-depth. This time, as the title has already revealed to you, he is sampling the delights available south of the border, beginning with a trip to Mexico. Stephen starts on the Santa Bridge, which separates El Paso in Texas from Ciudad Juarez, an important transit point for drug cartels - and a place regarded as one of Mexico's most dangerous cities. En route

to Chihuahua, he meets some of the area's cowboys.

FRIDAY

Ripper Street

BBC1, 9pm

Long Susan has convinced the world her solicitor Capshaw shot Reid and was solely responsible for the train crash, and while the inspector remains in a coma Drake and Jackson struggle to cope. Meanwhile, a destructive gang of youths unleashes hell upon the streets by night, murdering a pub landlord. The trail leads detectives into the heartland of one of the city's oldest trades - the London Breweries - where conflicted loyalties reign and grief and anger create a potent concoction.

BBQ Champ

ITV, 9pm

Mylene Klass turns up the heat as the competition reaches its mouth-watering finale, and you have to hand it to her - it must have taken a phenomenal amount of effort to remain so slim while being surrounded by a seemingly endless array of tasty treats. She faces temptation one last time tonight, as the four remaining contestants pull out all the stops in the battle to be crowned BBQ Champ 2015, and take home a cash prize of £25,000.



New Tricks, Tuesday, BBC1, 9pm

Hello I'm the gorgeous Jasmine



CAN YOU HELP ME? IM LOOKING FOR A HOME WITH NO OTHER PETS, AND ONLY OLDER CHILDREN, AS I AM REALLY QUITE SHY. I REALLY LOVE TO HAVE MY EARS TICKLED, AND NEED SOMEONE TO LOOK AFTER ME AND GIVE ME A CHANCE TO SHOW HOW WONDERFUL I CAN BE! I LIKE TO BE DESCRIBED AS WHITE WITH BLACK BITS, WITH A BIG HEART FULL OF LOVE, JUST GIVE ME A LITTLE TIME TO GET USED TO YOU, AND I WILL BE A LOVELY COMPANION, IM ONLY 2 YEARS OLD, AND I AM WAITING TO MEET YOU.... PLEASE COME AND SAY HELLO TO ME.....

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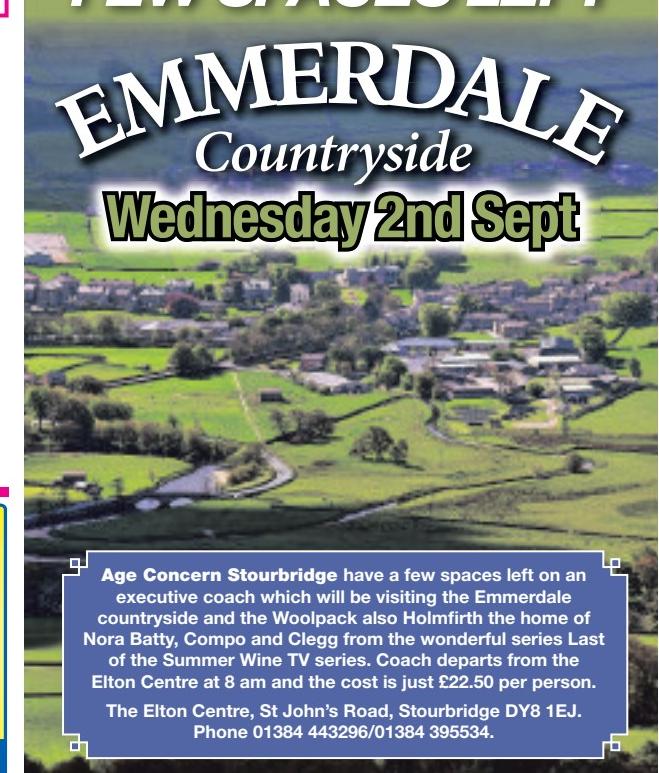
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EMMERDALE
Countryside
Wednesday 2nd Sept

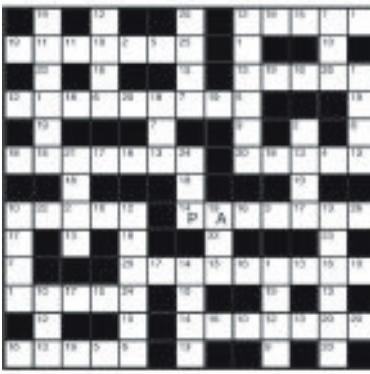
Age Concern Stourbridge have a few spaces left on an executive coach which will be visiting the Emmerdale countryside and the Woolpack also Holmfirth the home of Nora Batty, Compo and Clegg from the wonderful series Last of the Summer Wine TV series. Coach departs from the Elton Centre at 8 am and the cost is just £22.50 per person.

The Elton Centre, St John's Road, Stourbridge DY8 1EJ.
Phone 01384 443296/01384 395534.

BRAIN GYM No.340

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION



1	16	P
2	15	
3	16	
4	17	
5	18	
6	19	A
7	20	
8	21	
9	22	
10	23	
11	24	
12	25	
13	26	

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

Cryptic Clues:

Across:

- Toothed bar needed for the stoncher (4)
- Chim is contained by there, being powerful government groups (6)
- 8 & 80s. Extraordinary impression produced by immigrants (7,7)
- Not even vacuous (4)
- Unsanctified emanation of the church service? (4,6)
- Whale account the upper left on the ship (4)
- What is the option or nearby (4)
- Analysing what the faulty machine is doing (8,4)
- Moss that grows one ball, maybe (5)
- Journeymen (7)
- Fellow shaving his tons, being responsible for assistance (8)
- 23 & 29. Maropule the rats on the board (4,5)

Down:

- Fragrant plant got up by contrary girl (9)
- Ses 20 Across
- Finally, the revolution near the capital of Tunisia (2,4)
- Where Phocidippides made his sans, especially (2,3,4,5)
- Ses 9 Across
- In books I'd expect some thin (4)
- What illustrated manuscripts, prevent? (5,7)
- Principal support for our under the sea (8)
- Pins are needed for kind of carpet (7)
- Part of the relationship points another way (5)
- Alternatively, one is seen by the Spanish window (5)
- Symbol of victory seen on every land (4)



Quick Clues:

Across:

- Remove (4)
- Banqueting (4)
- Unfinished (7)
- Agency (5)
- Garrison (12)
- Gratia (6)
- Coloured pencil (6)
- Felicite (12)
- Fessing (5)
- Grasal (7)
- Diffuse (8)
- Skilful (4)

Down:

- Remoteness (8)
- Forsooth (5)
- Happening (8)
- Half-round (12)
- Unusually (7)
- Squat (4)
- Cleverness (12)
- Inborn (6)
- Tiles (7)
- Plague (8)
- Similar (5)
- Horrid (4)

Sudoku



Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	1
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	1	2
4	5	6	7	8	9	1	2	3
5	6	7	8	9	1	2	3	4
6	7	8	9	1	2	3	4	5
7	8	9	1	2	3	4	5	6
8	9	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
9	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	1
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	1	2
4	5	6	7	8	9	1	2	3
5	6	7	8	9	1	2	3	4
6	7	8	9	1	2	3	4	5
7	8	9	1	2	3	4	5	6
8	9	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
9	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	1
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	1	2
4	5	6	7	8	9	1	2	3
5	6	7	8	9	1	2	3	4
6	7	8	9	1	2	3	4	5
7	8	9	1	2	3	4	5	6
8	9	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
9	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

Due to production problems, an incorrect brain gym was published last week.

Solutions to number 337, published in the August 13 edition are as follows:

Across: 6 Fenton; 9 Blot; 9 Guy; 18 Esme; 12 Milly; 15 A foot note; 17 High level; 18 Shy; 21 Kasia; 22 Second; 23 Derry; 1 Heaps; 2 Alice; 3 Ornaments; 5 Tuesday; 7 Lekker; 11 Moshave; 12 Hedged; 14 Ensign; 16 Shade; 17 Ever; 20 Son; 21 Quick - Across; 6 Journeys; 7 Inset; 8 Act; 10 Descent; 12 Presently; 16 Sensibly; 17 Harness; 18 Accuse; 19 Swell; 20 Love; 21 Diver; 22 Picnic; 23 Sheep; 24 Money; 25 Loveliest; 26 Diver; 27 Queen; 28 Dismal; 29 Melrose; 30 Isolate; 31 Apprise; 32 De-quiet; 33 Tuisse; 34 Yelling; 35 Being; 36 Peas

Down: 10 Esme; 12 Milly; 15 A foot note; 17 High level; 18 Shy; 21 Kasia; 22 Second; 23 Derry; 1 Heaps; 2 Alice; 3 Ornaments; 5 Tuesday; 7 Lekker; 11 Moshave; 12 Hedged; 14 Ensign; 16 Shade; 17 Ever; 20 Son; 21 Quick - Across; 6 Journeys; 7 Inset; 8 Act; 10 Descent; 12 Presently; 16 Sensibly; 17 Harness; 18 Accuse; 19 Swell; 20 Love; 21 Diver; 22 Picnic; 23 Sheep; 24 Money; 25 Loveliest; 26 Dismal; 27 Queen; 28 Melrose; 30 Isolate; 31 Apprise; 32 De-quiet; 33 Tuisse; 34 Yelling; 35 Being; 36 Peas

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Attractive home comes with a vegetable patch



A MOST attractive and tastefully presented semi-detached property in Uplands Avenue, Rowley Regis, also comes with a stunning rear garden with a vegetable patch and off-street parking.

Ideal for the growing family, it is for sale through Robert Oulsnam at £134,950.

It has a porch, entrance hall, a lounge, dining room, an open-plan kitchen and dining area to include built-in 'snug' seating with storage and glorious views across the garden and an archway to a utility room, three bedrooms, a contemporary bathroom with fully-tiled walls and a shed/workshop.

For further information contact Robert Oulsnam on 0121 4299986 or visit the website www.oulsnam.net



Four-bed semi has £130,000 price tag

A FOUR-bed semi in Broadwaters Road, Wednesbury, comes with an ample rear garden. It is for sale through Goodchilds at £130,000.

Accommodation briefly comprises a porch, an entrance hallway, WC, lounge/dining room with a feature fireplace, a kitchen with dark wood-effect units and contrasting working surfaces, a built-in oven and hob, three bedrooms, a loft room and a family bathroom.

It also boasts ample off-road parking to the front, whilst the rear has a mainly lawned garden.

Call 01902 267111 or visit www.goodchilds-uk.com



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Willow Close, Hagley DY9 0LU



A three bedroomed semi detached house requiring refitting and refurbishment. Porch. Hall. Through Living Room/Dining Room. Kitchen. Bathroom. Separate w.c. Garage. Driveway. Energy Rating TBC

Guide Price £140,000 - £160,000

Queen Elizabeth Rd, K'minster, DY10 3BD

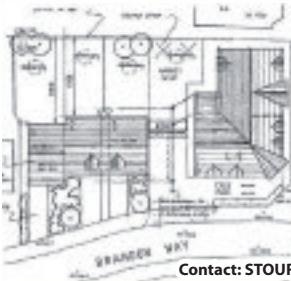


Requiring complete refurbishment - a freehold 3-bedroom end terrace family home on a large level plot within the popular Comberton estate, reception hall, living room, kitchen, 3 bedrooms, bathroom, separate wc, immense further potential, vacant possession upon completion. EPC D

Contact: STOURPORT OFFICE 01299 822060

Guide Price £75,000 - £95,000

Thorns Road, Brierley Hill, DY5 2JU



A freehold development site with Planning Permission preserved by the commencement of works under P07/1120 for the erection of nine dwellings - namely three x three-storey 2-bedroom houses ranging from approx. 838sq.ft to 934 sq.ft (GIA) plus a separate block of 6 x very spacious 1-bedroom apartments, all approx. 650 sq.ft. (GIA).

Contact: STOURPORT OFFICE 01299 822060

Guide Price £150,000 - £175,000

Bridge Road Cookley DY10 3SA



An exceptional opportunity to purchase a vacant shop (ex-butchers) adjoining house and associated storage rooms and separate building to the rear. Village centre location. Two/three investments units subject to further renovation/ improvement. Lots of potential. EPC E

Guide Price £220,000 - £250,000

Marlpool Lane Kidderminster DY11 5HP



A most appealing and attractive detached property built circa 1930. Porch. Hall. Living Room. Dining Room. Kitchen. Cloakroom/w.c. Rear Verandah/Porch. Three Bedrooms. Family Bathroom. Retains wealth of Period features. Large Gardens. Requires up-dating/ refurbishment. EPC F

Guide Price £155,000 - £175,000

Chester Rd North Kidderminster DY10 2RR



A substantial inter-war detached house requiring refitting and refurbishment. Large plot with driveway and off-street parking. Porch. Hall. Living Room. Separate Dining Room. Kitchen. Rear Sun Lounge/Verandah Porch. Fuel Stores. Traditional w.c. Three Bedrooms. Family Bathroom. Immense potential. Suitable for extension subject to obtaining the necessary Local Authority permissions. EPC D

Guide Price £160,000 - £185,000

Brook Street Kidderminster DY11 6RH



A three bedroom semi-detached family home set within a sought after and convenient cul-de-sac location. Reception Hall. Lounge. Kitchen & Dining Area. Garden Room. Three Bedrooms. Family Bathroom. Garage. Fore Garden. Long private and enclosed Rear Garden. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC E

Guide Price £120,000 - £125,000

Offmore Road Kidderminster DY10 1SA



Requiring complete refurbishment - the chance to breath life back in to a freehold 3-bedroom Victorian mid terraced house arranged over three floors in a popular and established residential location. Living room, kitchen, cellar, lobby/utility, bathroom, 3 bedrooms, small rear garden, vacant possession upon completion. EPC E

Guide Price £60,000 - £80,000

Blackwell Street Kidderminster DY10 2EE



Freehold retail shop in busy trading position with upper floor accommodation plus brick outbuilding - the whole requiring complete refurbishment. Sales area, kitchenette, 2 rooms to the first floor, immense further potential, vacant possession upon completion. EPC F

Guide Price £30,000 - £50,000

Tiger Sport earns its stripes

By John Griffiths

In the world of motorcycling where twins and four-cylinder engines generally hold sway, it's nice to see a British-built triple making inroads.

Triumph has dared to be different with its now trademark three-cylinder machines, from the 675cc Street Triple to the big 1215cc Explorer.

Then there's the Tiger. While Tigers are generally solitary creatures, Triumph has several in its menagerie which come in different forms, some more biased towards on-road riding rather than the occasional foray into the forests.

Most have an 800cc engine, but for those who want a big cat with even bigger teeth there's the 1,050cc Tiger Sport. Not only does it have the sort of performance which puts it in the sports category, it is also capable of easily handling two-up riding plus panniers carrying up to 220kg.

With its generous ground clearance it looks like an 'adventure' bike like its fellow Tigers, but in truth it's likely more buyers would see this as the consummate go-anywhere tourer. It seems Triumph acknowledge this too, as the last redesign involved a raft of measures aimed at making it more comfortable for the long-distance rider, with improved road manners.

Oh, and they gave it more power and torque, too: up from 111 to 123bhp with a healthy 104Nm of torque at a relatively low (in bike terms) engine speed of 4,300rpm.

Yes its quick: even with me on board the power-to-weight ratio is something like 3kg per bhp. It also means the bike never seems

stretched – explaining the near 60mpg average I achieved.

The tank holds 20 litres of fuel, giving up a theoretical range of well in excess of 200 miles (depending on traffic and riding style, of course). But it's also about the way the big, fuel-injected triple delivers.

You don't need to strain your toes going up and down the slick, six-speed gearbox. Once rolling you can whisper through speed-restricted villages in fifth or even sixth, and rarely need to downshift to take an overtaking opportunity.

Snarling

The almost lazy thump, thump, thump, on tick-over soon gives way to a sewing-machine smooth mid-range and a snarling end (if you ever need to use anything like maximum revs).

It is a tall machine, but the latest Tiger Sport now has a narrower, lower seat which makes it a better proposition for those like me with shorter legs.

The handlebars are also nearer to the rider, with footpegs set slightly more forward, so you have a 'command' riding position for excellent visibility which is also comfortable on long journeys. It certainly proved so for me on a 200-mile excursion along some of the finest Welsh roads.

While not quite a 'bikini' fairing, the aerodynamic binnacle containing the two headlamps and the fixed-screen mounting worked well for my size and riding position: no buffeting but enough cooling air (something I appreciate on a hot day in full kit).

It still has the long travel suspension of the adventure Tiger, but with a longer swing arm and stiffer damper settings more suited to the road than dirt tracks. If you're used to sports bike, it does feel different but neither



'While Tigers are generally solitary creatures, Triumph has several in its menagerie'

this nor the bike's height seem to compromise its cornering ability.

This new set-up, and a revised chassis, contribute to its ability to continue to perform and handle even with the extra load of a pillion passenger and luggage – the essence of a good touring machine.

A big digital speed readout helps to keep you legal, and alongside that is a comprehensive fuel, temperature and trip meter (including a 'miles to empty' feature) and tyre pressure warning.

At £9,899, the Tiger Sport is very well positioned in price and performance terms alongside the competition.

It has grown and developed out of machines such as the 955i and the previous Tiger 1050, becoming a highly competent all-rounder, with punchier performance, new levels of comfort and improved handling. It widens the options and appeal of the Tiger range, at a time when adventure-styled machines are still among the most popular with riders.

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An elite band will travel in comfort

By Ian Donaldson

Forget the Ferrari, banish the Bentley; if you want to stand out from the crowd you need the new Volvo S60 Cross Country. It's going to be a very rare sight indeed on British roads.

Volvo reckons it will sell only 100 of these gently toughened saloons here each year, while explaining they will be much more popular in India and South America.

They're both areas of the world where a saloon car shape is seen as prestigious; here in the UK we favour the practicality of a hatchback or estate and buy fewer booted saloons. Volvo meets part of that market by offering the new Cross Country as an V60 estate alongside the S60 saloon and expects to sell 850 of them in a year; rendering it a rare sight but not in the hen's teeth way of the saloon.

Both sit near the pinnacle of a broad S/V60 range that starts at £21,005 for the S60 with 2.0-litre petrol power (the V60 estate is another £1,200) and are aimed at owners who want a car that stands out from the crowd, while offering a little more country lane ability.

That latter attribute comes from suspension that pushes the Cross Country versions 65mm higher above the road (or grassy field) than standard cars and should help if you live along a bumpy, rutted lane.

That's the only genuinely useful upgrade for the 'active lifestyle' sort of buyer so beloved of car companies these days. The alloy looking skid plates under front and rear bumpers are styling touches only, helping onlookers tell the car apart from non-Cross Country versions if they've not already clocked its unique design of alloy wheels, black radiator grille or modest plastic wheelarch extensions.

Opt for the most expensive car in the S60 range, the £36,525 AWD Geartronic Cross Country Lux Nav, and you gain all-wheel drive and automatic gearbox, although the engine is an older 2400cc five-cylinder unit that produces notably poorer economy and emissions figures than the car tested here.

It makes the same 187bhp as the newer 2.0 litre engine in the test car but with a little more low-speed pulling power and the benefit of auto gears if you're happy to pay at the pumps for an easier life.

Single

The S60 Cross Country D4 Manual Lux NavTug tested here comes in a single specification at £33,695 (hardly worth the bother to offer more with predicted sales so tiny) but it's a pretty luxurious take on country living.

Standard kit includes leather upholstery, satellite navigation, 18in alloy wheels, headlight washers, climate control, cruise control, auto dimming interior mirror and rear centre armrest with storage and cupholders. Surprisingly, heated front seats are extra, as part of an optional £675 winter pack. Another £150 buys a slimline spare wheel in place of a can of glop.

Slipping into the driver's seat of the S60 Cross Country brings you face to face with a dashboard that looks a lot like those you'll find in most other current Volvos – and that's a good thing. It means the instruments are big and easy to read, and the switches for everything from heating to adjusting the radio are bold and obvious.

Then you start up and move off, surprised to find a manual gearchange in a car that seems posh enough to take the auto route. But it's an easy change to use and the engine is responsive enough to let you hang on to higher gears around town. It will also help on the economy front.

My brief drive showed a respectable 41mpg on the trip computer (67.3mpg is the official, but always optimistic average) after a journey that gave no space to test the car's 130mph top speed or sprint to 62mph 7.7 seconds.

What was tested on some poor Cotswolds roads was a ride that delighted with the way it soaked up the bumps and constant little surface irritations. So the modest band of S60 Cross Country owners are going to reach their weekend holiday cottage in some comfort.

TESTED

Volvo S60 Cross Country D4 Manual Lux Nav
£33,695

Drivetrain: 2.0 litre 187bhp diesel engine, 6-speed gearbox

Performance: Top speed 130mph 0-62mph 7.7 seconds

Economy: Euro average 67.3mpg CO₂ 111g/km road tax £0 first year, then £30

Safety: EuroNCAP 5 stars

Insurance: Group 29

Warranty: Three years or 60,000 miles

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During the tour of Toronto, highlights include Chinatown, the St Lawrence Market and the harbour front, plus an exhilarating ride in an exterior glass lift to the observation deck of the CN Tower to see fantastic views of the city.

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Longleat's Giant Lanterns and Bristol Christmas Market

Two days departing November 28

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The Pickering 1940's Weekend

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Elvis Exhibition at The O2 London

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Paddy Power Gold Cup

Two days departing November 14

PRICE FROM £99

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Four days departing Nov 20 and Dec 11

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Winchester and Salisbury Christmas Markets

Two days departing December 12

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Sport

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Lions get season off to a good start

Malvern 17 Stourbridge Lions 40
THE 2015-16 season started out as the old one finished for Stourbridge Lions, with an away win.

This was a first test against a club in another part of Midlands 2 and who finished in roughly the same position as the Lions did last season, so it was a good early measure of potential.

Overall it was an ultimately comfortable win, with six tries and good performances across the squad give confidence for the first serious test in the Cup at Shrewsbury next weekend.

The game opened with the Lions defending against a big home pack but gradually the outstanding defensive line pushed Malvern back.

On five minutes a speculative pass was cleverly intercepted by Scotty Langdon for an easy run in to the line to get the season up and running.

Two minutes later Ben Tibbett scored on the end of a well-worked move in the left corner, converted by Sam Wilson.

Hesitation by the home defenders left Tom Dews to pick up a loose ball and canter home unopposed for another converted try.

Into the second quarter and Malvern found a way through the Lions defence, bringing the score to 19-5.

Malvern tried to chip the ball over the Lions' tallest player, Sam Strangward which led to him catching the ball and scoring. Wilson converted.

In the second half Dews scored under the posts. The Wilson conversion ended the game as a real contest at 33-5.

Due credit to Malvern, they did come back with two tries of their own, including one at the death but by then another superb move down the left led to club skipper Doolittle crossing in acres of space. A good start to what will be another tough season.

Albion will push on with deals for Evans and Marshall

ALBION will press ahead with deals for Jonny Evans and David Marshall after boss Tony Pulis criticised their defending in the 3-2 defeat by Chelsea.

The Baggies hope to make progress on Evans and Marshall this week – and they could still resurrect a deal for Tottenham's Federico Fazio even if Evans switches from Manchester United.

Pulis was critical of the goals his side conceded in Sunday's Hawthorns defeat to the champions and will now redouble his efforts to strengthen at the back, although he left summer signing James Chester and Villa target Joleon Lescott on the substitutes' bench.

Albion have been unable to agree a fee with Cardiff over Scotland international gloveman Marshall, who the Bluebirds are thought to value at around £25m.

But they are hopeful of a breakthrough as well as progress on Evans, who re-emerged as a leading target when a deal to sign Fazio stalled over personal terms.

Hawthorns sources insist an agreement to sign Northern Ireland international Evans from Old Trafford would not end the club's interest in Fazio.

Win at the wicket helps stop the drop

Page 39

Sam topping bill in title defence

Page 39

CHRON.SPORT@EXPRESSANDSTAR.CO.UK

Changed TD side post second win

Bartestree 2 Team Dudley 4

TEAM Dudley picked up their second win in three West Midlands Division One games with a 4-2 success at Bartestree.

After a disappointing result against Bustlehome Team Dudley travelled to Bartestree to face a side that had lost their first two opening games.

Manager Stewart Holmes, changed it up a little for a trip to Hereford which saw the students line up in a 4-4-2 with Alex Pinches and Marc Lawrence welcomed back into the XI while Myles Nettleford was handed his first appearance of the season.

A positive start from the visitors was rewarded within five minutes with Nathan Jones scoring.

Jordan Langford-Hill played a cross to the winger who controlled the ball and beat keeper John Hopkins before finding the net with a calm effort past the covering defender.

With 12 minutes gone the lead was doubled by Myles Nettleford, and a minute later it was 3-0 as Jones rammed home his second.

Steve Whitehouse was central to Team Dudley playing the ball, moving it on and spraying the ball into wide areas when required, a great start from the captain while James Hawthorne is sidelined with an injury.

With 38 minutes gone Bartestree won a free-kick, which produced a great save from Liam Jones but the rebound was tapped home from Lee Marlon.

Bartestree scored again with 15 minutes to play from a vicious drive by Shaun Prince.

But Team Dudley sealed the game when Sam Lea played in Nettleford whose shot was too powerful for keeper John Hopkins to stop.

A scalding from Spalding for Tivs

Spalding United 2 Tividale 1

TIVIDALE were beaten at Spalding United after starting the match on the back foot.

Against a team that missed out on the Evo-Stik Division One South play-off places last season, the Black Country outfit went behind after two minutes.

Defender Neal Spafford rose unmarked and headed home a Dan Lawlor corner.

It was Tividale who hit the net next, two minutes after the interval.

Ashley Jackson headed home.

On 77 minutes the ball fell to Josh Moreman to net Spalding's second.

★★★
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Thursday, August 27, 2015

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